

# The DC Gazette

NOVEMBER 1980

**THE 'NEW' WASHINGTON**  
*HOW GOTHAMOIDS, STYLE GROUPIES,  
POWER PLAYERS & DAY-TRIPPERS  
ARE RUINING THE CITY*

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**AMERICA'S YOUNG ILLS**

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**Last Chance for the DC Schools?**

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**HOW TO STOP NUCLEAR WAR**

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**Barry's Budget Score**

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**LEGALIZING WATERGATE**

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**Neighborhood News**

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**APPLE PIE**



# What's Happening

**VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL GROUP:** The International Visitors Information Service needs volunteers to assist at weekly meetings with an international group of women who are sponsored by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Volunteers take the group to places of interest in the area and assist at social activities. IVIS is especially looking for volunteers conversant in French, Spanish, Portuguese or Arabic. IVS also need volunteer drivers for this group. Info: Lisa Smith at 872-8747.

**SENTENCING AUTHORITY ACT ROUNDTABLE:** There will be a roundtable discussion of the Sentencing Authority Act of 1980 on Nov 12 at 2 pm in room 115 of city hall. The bill is designed to increase the sentencing options of judges by authorizing the use of split sentencing, under which a convicted person spends a period in confinement and a period on parole. Such practices are not currently authorized, because the DC Court of Appeals has ruled that the practice was unlawful under current law. Copies of the bill can be obtained from the legislative services unit of the city council in room 28 of city hall (724-8050). Those wishing to comment in person are requested to contact Gaby Fraser at 724-8138. Written statements can be submitted to the Secretary of the Council, Room 101, District Building, 14th & E NW, DC 20004.

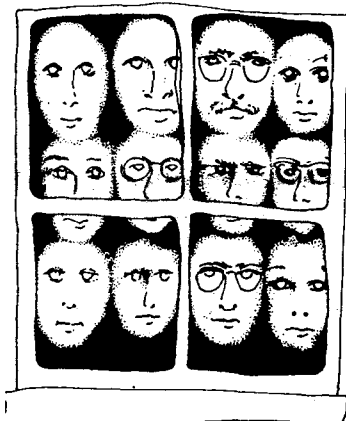
**POTOMAC ALLIANCE OPEN HOUSE:** The Potomac Alliance, a local anti-nuclear power and weapon group, is hosting an open house every Wednesday night from 6 to 9. The offices are at 1605 Conn. Ave. (4th floor). On every third Wednesday there will be a women's night at the office so that community women can meet together and discuss nuclear issues.

**ACTION FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN DAY:** The Children's Defense Fund has announced plans for a lobbying day on behalf of CHAP, a congressional bill that would provide basic health care to children and pregnant women. The lobbying effort will take place on November 12th and will be headquartered at the Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St. CHAP would expand and reform the preventive care part of the Medicaid program to help children and pregnant mothers. The bill passed the House last year and the Senate Finance Committee reported it more than a year ago. Senate action and a House-Senate conference are needed to get CHAP through. CDF estimates that, under the bill, 14.5 million children

would get health examinations, eyeglasses, immunizations and medical care. The bill would also help up to 220,000 pregnant women who are now delivering babies with little or no prenatal care. Because of the preventative emphasis, some experts claim that the bill would actually save about \$1 billion a year in health expenses for children. Info: 483-1470.

**LEAGUE CALENDAR:** The 1981 calendar of the DC League of Women Voters is now available for \$2. Besides dates, it contains five pages of useful information, including names and numbers of government and other service agencies. Info: 785-2616 between 10 am and 3:30 pm.

**TAXI STANDS:** The Department of Transportation has issued a proposed ruling that would establish taxi stands in more than a dozen locations, either downtown or near major Metrorail stations.



**BIKES ON SIDEWALKS:** The Department of Transportation has issued a ruling that would require bicyclists on sidewalks to yield the right of way to vehicles at intersections.

**POISON CENTER:** Georgetown University has opened an areawide poison center to provide round-the-clock answers to callers with poison emergencies and to refer those unable to handle the problem at home to the nearest emergency room. The center will also call ahead to the emergency room so preparations to treat the emergency can be made while the patient is enroute. The telephone number is 625-3333.

**HOUSING ACTIVITY REPORT:** The Council of Governments has published a study of housing starts in the metropolitan area during the 70s. The report shows a 29 percent decline in new construction during the period. Exceptions to the trend were Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince Williams counties. Copies of the report are available for \$2 from COG's Metropolitan Information Center, 1875 Eye St. NW, DC 20006.

**SUNDAY SCHOLAR SERIES:** The Washington Hebrew Congregation (3935 Macomb St. NW) is offering a series of lectures followed by a question and answer

period. The lectures start at 1030 am on Sunday morning and are free to the public although a donation will be requested. The schedule includes:

- Nov. 9: Midge Dector on "The New Love of Sterility."
- Nov. 16: Eliezer Oren on "The Egyptian Connection: Historical and Cultural Relationships with Ancient Israel."
- Nov. 23: Peter Gay on "Freud's Jewishness."
- Dec. 7: Stephen Berk on "Soviet Jewry at the Turning Point."
- Dec. 14: Dr. Philip Leder on "Can Man Now Guide His Evolution?"

**COMPARATIVE TAX STUDY:** The city has released its annual study comparing tax burdens in DC with those in the nation's thirty largest cities. Besides comparing specific taxes, the study also discusses progressivity of tax systems, how District tax burdens compare to the average and why tax burdens differ. A limited number of copies is available to groups which require this information for research or to other interested members of the public. For a copy call 727-6027.

**SENIOR VOLUNTEERS FOR CHILDRENS MUSEUM:** The Children's Museum is looking for retired persons to help with its activities. Training is provided and all senior volunteers are provided transportation and meal stipends. Info: Children's Museum Senior Volunteer Program, 800 3rd St. NE, DC 20002 (Call Donna Firer at 544-2244).

**LOGAN CIRCLE HOUSE TOUR:** Dec. 7 from one to five. Yuletide Wassail and bazaar at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church 3-6. Tickets \$7.50 at the door and \$6.50 in advance. Call Kate Roach for tickets, 234-4396. Tour starts at the church, 1308 Vermont Ave. NW.

**HEATING COMPLAINTS:** Tenants with complaints about heat or hot water may call 724-4415. Landlords are required to heat homes and apartments to at least 68 degrees from 630 am to 11 pm and at least 65 degrees during the night.



After a three year hiatus, the Gazette has revived its National Action Guide. This listing provides the names and addresses of hundreds of national activist organizations plus a list of alternative media around the country. For a copy send \$1 to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. Just ask for NAG.

## Folger Apartments

ON - THE - PARK  
One bedrooms, efficiencies and studios  
411 2nd St. SE 765-2625

# NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

## UP 16TH STREET

**BLAIR ROAD BUSINESS LOAN SWUNG:** The mayor announced last month that the city had helped to develop a one million dollar loan package for the American Sales Company to purchase land at 6101-05 Blair Road NW. The firm, which has been in the city for 48 years, provides 60 jobs and annual tax revenues of more than \$300,000. The package involves about \$400,000 each from the National Bank of Washington and the Small Business Administration, as well as a \$26,000 loan from the DC Development Corporation. The loan will enable the firm to purchase a 32,000 square foot warehouse and additional land. Close to 60 percent of the firm's employees are of minority groups and workers are paid at union scale.

**SUPERCAN PROGRAM TO GROW:** Pleased with the initial test results of the so-called supercans, the city is planning to extend the distribution of the new 82-gallon trash containers

to all parts of Ward Four. Some 2600 households were involved in the test and based on 1000 responses to a questionnaire, the Department of Environmental Services reports a 93% acceptance rate. Seven hundred and thirty households were tested in Ward Four. The acceptance rate in the ward was 97%. The wheeled supercans are rolled to pick-up sites and are dumped mechanically, using trucks with special hoisting attachments. When the program is fully operational, it is expected to save the city \$2 million a year.

**CHURCH BAZAAR:** The St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Church is holding a bazaar on Nov. 21-23. The church is located at 4842 16th St. NW. The hours on Nov. 21 are 6-8. On the other two days the hours are noon-6. Info: 966-4624.



## WEST OF THE PARK

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** The Washington Waldorf School will hold a Christmas bazaar on Saturday, November 22, from 1030 am to 330 pm at Hearst Hall on the grounds of the National Cathedral. Raffles, a puppet and juggling show, an international coffee house and craft demonstration are among the activities. The bazaar is open to the public and free. Proceeds go to the Washington Waldorf School. Info: Diane Carlson at 363-6222 or the school at 362-3705.

**TREGARON SALE STOPPED AGAIN:** As we went to press the sale of the Tregaron tract in Cleveland Park was being temporarily blocked by the DC Court of Appeals as the parties to the intricate family dispute awaited the outcome of a ruling on bond posting requirements.

**VOLUNTEERS IN LIBRARIES:** With the city facing serious budget cuts, the

## The United Way Campaign

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Way to go.



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DC GAZETTE, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009  
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role of, and need for, volunteers in the libraries is growing. The library system already has 46 volunteers working downtown and in the branches. Interested persons can contact Houston Maples at 727-1130 to discuss the program. Polly Shackleton reports that there is also growing interest in forming community-based "Friends of the Library" groups similar to the long-standing Tenley Friends of the Libraries. Georgetown and Palisades are forming such groups now. To find out how your neighborhood can establish such an organization, call Monteiro Hightower, assistant director, at 727-1391 or 727-1134.

**POLICE BLOTTER:** Polly Shackleton's Ward 3 office has copies of the pamphlet "It Can Happen to You," which outlines the various security measures citizens can take. The pamphlet was prepared by Sylvia Boone of the Second District. For a copy, drop by the office weekdays 10-4 or call 686-5227.

- Burglaries continue to mount in the west of the park area, as did robberies. Burglaries in September were up about 50% over last year. Most of the break-ins have occurred during the middle of the day.

- If you want someone from the Second District to address your group call Lt. Herbert at 282-0050.

- If the 911 line is busy call 727-4326.

- For minor offense reports of incidents which are not in progress call the Telephone Report Writing Branch at 727-4142 or the Second District at 282-0070.

- For complaints of overtime parking or other incidents in which police presence is desired but not on an emergency basis call the Second District at 282-0070.

- For complaints relative to juveniles, or school-related incidents, crossing problems or environmental problems call the Second District Community Services Office at 282-0050.

For follow-up information on a crime previously reported, call the Second District's Detective's Office at 282-0043.

- The Second District is looking for crossing guards. Eligible are DC residents who are 21-50 years of age, of good moral character and able to pass a physical examination. The job requires about four hours a school day. Info: 282-0050.

**GEORGETOWN FLOODPLAIN BILL INTRODUCED:** Polly Shackleton has introduced the Georgetown Floodplain Moratorium Act which would impose a moratorium on the issuance of building permits in the Georgetown floodplain area pending completion of an environmental report by the city. The bill has been co-sponsored by councilmembers Wilson, Ray, Moore, Kane, Clarke and Mason. It has been referred to the committee on Transportation and Environmental Affairs. It should be noted that the city is behind many other communities in protecting floodplains, watersheds and steep slopes from overdevelopment.

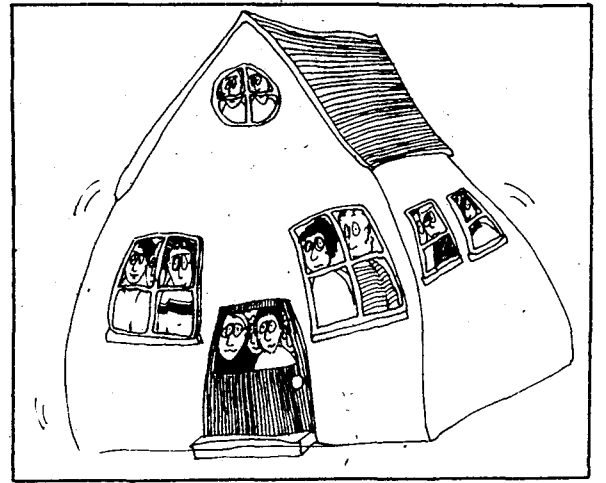
**RENO ROAD PROGRESS:** The Washington Post last month quoted an official of the Department of Transportation as

saying that six additional intersections will be converted to four-way flashing red between 7 pm and 6 am. These intersections are Livingston, Van Ness, Tilden, Porter Garfield and Woodley. A berrmarle is already being operated as a night-time four-way stop intersection. Technical division chief George Jivatodfe also said that the entire Reno corridor will be converted to one lane of traffic at all times by next spring and that a system of banning right turns at certain intersections will be instituted to discourage cutovers from Wisconsin Avenue. The Post also quoted a real estate agent as saying that Reno Road homes take as long as 5 months to sell compared with the Cleveland Park average of 20 days and that they go for about 90% of the price of houses on adjoining streets.

**NEW HIGHRISE FOR WISCONSIN AVE?:** The Zoning Commission has received an application from Cabogan Investments for a planned unit development and change of zoning at 2141 Wisconsin Ave. The applicant plans to develop 28,000 square feet consisting of a 92-unit apartment building with commercial retail office space on the first floor. The project will consist of two towers joined by a gallery. The east tower will be eight stories high and the west tower six stories high. Information on this proposal (Case #80-12C) can be obtained at the Zoning Commission or by calling 727-6311.

**GU HOSPITAL OPENS ADOLESCENT CENTER:** Georgetown University Hospital is opening an Adolescent Inpatient Service. The service will offer all regular medical services as well as a floor kitchen for snacking, a teacher to conduct classes and a separate recreation room with a juke box, ping pong tables, books, magazines, games, crafts and a television set. The personnel on the floor have been trained in the problems and pressures of adolescence. According to Robert B. Sherin, director of the division of adolescent medicine at the hospital, youth and young adults are affected more than any other age groups with problems such as pregnancy, venereal disease, illicit drug use, mental health problems and automobile accidents.

**STONE-SETTING RESUMED AT CATHEDRAL:** The National Cathedral has resumed limited stone-setting. There has been no building at the cathedral since 1977. A small masonry crew, headed by Peter Cleland, long-time master mason at the cathedral, is working at the Pilgrim Observation Gallery level on the west facade. Funds expressly given for the gallery project have accumulated to the point that the stone-setting can resume. The cathedral has raised about half of the \$15.5 million it has been seeking to pay off debts incurred in completed the nave and to endow future program and construction of the Pilgrim Gallery. According to Canon Charles Perry, the work will continue only so long as there are sufficient gifts to pay for it. He says that one of the prime reasons for resuming construction now is to avoid further damage to



building stones stored in the yard and exposed to the elements in the incomplete gallery. The crew is setting stones according to the traditional method where each stone is numbered according to a special diagram. Sixteen hundred of the stones for the gallery remain to be set.

**200 YEARS OLD:** Georgetown Presbyterian is now 200 years old. In 1780 the church applied to become a formal congregation. The request was granted with a warning from the church hierarchy that the preacher should not expect too much success with the ungodly waterfront population of Georgetown. The church was the site of an early academy supported by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Its sanctuary was used as a civil war hospital and one of its ministers was the author of the first book published in the city. Formerly on M Street, the church moved to P Street in 1870. Twenty years ago the Victorian Gothic building was reconstructed to create a reproduction of the exterior of the earlier church.

**SAVE OUR WATERFRONT T-SHIRTS:** The Waterfront Campaign is selling attractive T-shirts imprinted "Save Our Waterfront; Grow Parks, Not Buildings" as part of its campaign to create a waterfront park in Georgetown. The T-shirts are available for \$6 (plus 50 cents handling) from the Waterfront Campaign, 1320 27th St. NW, DC 20007. Indicate size, color (blue on gray, black on beige, dark blue on light blue and orange on gold) and whether you want long or short sleeves.

**ANGLED PARKING ON K ST:** The Department of Transportation has instituted angled parking on K Street between Thomas Jefferson St. and Wisconsin. The plan, which is only temporary (during the current spate of construction in the area), will increase the number of available parking spaces by 21.

**ICONS ON SALE:** The icons of Father John Walsted will be on view at the Washington Cathedral Museum shop through November 10. Walsted, a former abstract painter turned monk, began painting icons some twenty years ago. Since then he has done about 200 works for private collections and religious institutions and is one of the few experts of the art in the country.

**NEW COMMISSIONERS IN CHEVY CHASE:** The Chevy Chase Neighborhood Commission has two new members: Lee Schoenecker



THE GAZETTE welcomes neighborhood news items from those communities within our primary circulation area, including West of the Park, upper 16th Street, Dupont Circle, Adams Morgan, West End, SW, Brookland and Capitol Hill. For best results have your copy in by the 15th of the month.

and Martha Williams. Schoenecker, who represents the area between Nebraska Avenue and Military Road, works for the US Office of Management and Budget. Williams, who represents the area north of Nebraska between Utah and Broad Branch, tutors at the Math Center. Schoenecker's telephone number is 686-8864 and Williams can be reached at 966-2147. They replace Gail Carson who has moved to Stanford, California and Janet Gisleson, who has moved to New Orleans.

**CHEVY CHASE NOTES:** There's a new four-way stop at Broad Branch and Northampton.

- Bus shelters have been installed on Connecticut Ave. at Nebraska and McKinley after pressure from the neighborhood commission.

- The Fishery Restaurant has been granted a renewal of its liquor license.

- The Chevy Chase Community Center needs volunteers. Fifteen years ago when it opened it had fifteen employees. Today it has three. To help call 282-2204.

**WILSON POOL HOURS:** Open 3 to 9 pm with adult swim 5-630 pm. Open family swim, Tuesday and Thursday 7-9 pm. and Fridays, 6:30-9 pm. Saturday hours are noon to 4 pm. (282-2216).

**CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 9-9 pm. Friday and Saturday 9-530. Closed Sundays (727-1341).

**CHEVY CHASE COMMISSION GRANTS:** The Chevy Chase Neighborhood Commission (3G) has given \$100 to the Wilson High School Players, \$150 to the Deal Jr. High Reading Is Fundamental Program, \$250 to the Chevy Chase Playground Committee for equipment, and \$300 to the Chevy Chase Foundation. The latter sum will be used for benches at the McKinley St. bus stop, azalea plants for the park at 38th & Huntington Sts, and for trash cans on Nebraska at Fessenden.

**MAGRUDERS PARKING LOT:** When the zoning exception for Magruder's parking lot came up recently, the Chevy Chase Neighborhood Commission (3G) asked that a two-year approval be made contingent on regular cleaning of the lot, maintenance of landscaping and that delivery vehicles not obstruct traffic or damage the sidewalk.

Meanwhile, the People's parking lot exception renewal was approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment with similar requirements.

**SUPERCAN PROGRAM TO GROW:** Pleased with the initial test results of the so-called supercans, the city is planning to extend the distribution of the new 82-gallon trash containers to all parts of Ward Three except Georgetown and Glover Park. Some 2600 households were involved in the test

and based on 1000 responses to a questionnaire, the Department of Environmental Services reports a 93% acceptance rate. Four hundred and sixty-five households were tested in Ward Three. The acceptance rate in Ward Three was 88%. The wheeled supercans are rolled to pick-up sites, and are dumped mechanically, using trucks with special hoisting attachments. When the program is fully operational, it is expected to save the city \$2 million a year.

**TREES CUT ON CANAL:**irate Georgetowners raised the roof with the National Park Service when they found trees on the south bank of the C&O Canal being cut down one day. Turns out the work was done by a new business that was planning to turn the spot into a restaurant terrace and that the cutting had not been authorized. NPS withdrew a tentative permit for access to the south bank and the trees will be replanted. . . Meanwhile, restoration work on the canal continues. It's going to cost a million dollars and will not be completed until late 1982. Included in the plans are interpretive signs, wayside exhibits and camping areas.

**WISCONSIN AVENUE PUD BEFORE ZONING COMMISSION:** The application for preliminary approval of a planned unit development at 2308-2328 Wisconsin Avenue NW comes up before the Zoning Commission on November 24 at 130 pm. The 43,000 square foot site would be turned into sixty-four rental units and 86,000 square feet of commercial retail and office space, as well as 2 1/2 levels of parking. The area is currently zoned R3. The new zone would permit a maximum height of fifty feet and would allow chancery use, with the approval of the BZA. For more information on this case (80-10P) call the Zoning Commission at 727-6311.

**TROUBLE IN THE LIBRARIES:** One of the less noted victims of the city's budget crisis is the library system. With cuts in hours and closing of branches in the wind, Ward 3 may feel the pinch particularly. Ward Three had 55% of all circulation for the city's branch libraries in FY 1979, but the pressure will be to make cuts geographically equal across the city.

**DUTCH ELM TREATMENT CALLED SUCCESS:** A new method of controlling dutch elm disease used in the Northwest DC this summer has been responsible for killing nearly six million elm bark beetles before they could reproduce and spread the disease, according to Dr. Gerald Lanier of the State University of New York. During July Dr. Lanier killed 100 hopelessly diseased elms with an herbicide that caused rapid drying of the bark. Elm bark beetles lured by the odor of the

drying trees and a synthetic attractant were foiled in their attempts to reproduce successfully in these "trap trees." In late September a sampling of the 100 trap trees reveals that an estimated 5.8 million beetles were slaughtered. If beetles bred normally in the 100 elms killed, they would have produced 44 million offspring. Only 4.9 million beetles are presently in the bark of these trees and roughly three-quarters are in 15 trees that were already infested when they were treated.

In contrast 66 trees that were mostly uninfested when they were treated produced only half a million beetles. For every 100 beetles that attacked these trees only 15 progeny were generated.

Most of the beetles bred in the treated trees will emerge next spring. According to Hans Johannsen, chief of the city's tree division, the treated trees are scheduled to be removed this winter. "Even if none of these trees were removed there would be a substantial net reduction in beetle population," Lanier stated.

Lanier says that the work already done will reduce Dutch elm disease in northwest DC but he cautions, "Any advantage gained will be quickly lost if treatments are not continued or the District does not increase the speed at which infected trees are removed. If nothing more is done to reverse the trend in the Capital, the disease will increase exponentially and the District will lose most of its 18,000 elms."

## SOUTH WEST

**SW MALL OFF CRITICAL LIST:** One of the city's most troubled shopping centers, the Waterside Mall, is showing signs of life. A new Safeway has opened, replacing an older, smaller store. And construction has finally begun on the northeast wing, which will add about 100,000 square feet of office space and 35,000 square feet of commercial area to the structure. According to a story by Rudolph Pyatt in the Star, SW residents are still doubtful about the project, though. Concerns include too much emphasis on office construction and not enough retail stores, as well as the failure to recognize the need for neighborhood oriented shops and services. Said Carol Cowgill, chair of the Save our Mall committee, the mall should never have been conceived as a regional shopping center: "Southwest doesn't have a movie theater; it doesn't have a bakery; it doesn't have a hardware store."

**RANDALL AND JEFFERSON SLATED TO CLOSE:** The Board of Education has accepted Superintendent Reed's proposal to close Randall and Jefferson Junior High Schools as part of a plan to save the school system a little money. Nine other schools

are also slated for closing, saving the city an estimated \$500,000. The issue will be coming before public hearings in a few weeks. Ward Two school board member Alaire Rieffel, had suggested combining the Randall Aerospace and Marine Science Program with Ballou High School's Math-Science Program and housing the combined programs at the Jefferson school building, while using Bowen school as building, while using Bowen school as a junior high to replace the program at Jefferson.

**ARENA GETS LITTLE LANDMARK STATUS:** The Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital has designated the Arena Stage as an historic landmark, to be placed in Category II of the Inventory of Historic Sites, but did not recommend that it be placed on the National Register.

## UPPER NE

**SUPERCAN PROGRAM TO GROW:** Pleased with the initial test results of the so-called supercans, the city is planning to extend the distribution of the new 82-gallon trash containers to the top third of Ward Five. Some 2600 households were involved in the test and based on 1000 responses to a questionnaire, the Department of Environmental Services reports a 93%

acceptance rate. Nine hundred and twenty-one households were tested in Ward Five. The acceptance rate in the ward was 95%. The wheeled supercans are rolled to pick-up sites, and are dumped mechanically, using trucks with special hoisting attachments. When the program is fully operational, it is expected to save the city \$2 million a year.

## CAPITOL HILL

**HINE SLATED TO CLOSE:** The Board of Education has voted to accept Superintendent Reed's recommendation to close Hine Junior High School as part of a plan to save the school system some money. The board also voted to close Lenox Elementary School and nine other schools around the city. It is estimated, however, that the closings will only save the system about a half million dollars.

The issue is scheduled to be brought before public hearings in coming weeks. Ward Six school board member John Warren says he is "emphatically opposed" to closing Hine.

**KUUMBA CENTER GETS GRANT:** The Kuumba Learning Center at the 5 Gallery

has received a \$25,000 grant from the Institute of Museum Services. The federal grant was one of 405 given to museums around the country out of more than 1500 applications. The Institute, now in its third year, provides money for general operation support as well as project support.

**BILLBOARDS ORDERED DOWN:** The DC Superior Court has ruled that the five billboards at 6th & D SE must become down because they are not in conformity with the beautification provisions of the Federal Highway Act. The Rollins Company, owners of the billboards, has appealed the ruling. Meanwhile, the city is reportedly working on new regulations that would lead to the first increase in billboards in the city in fifty years.

## DUPONT CIRCLE

**DUPONT CIRCLE DOWNZONING HEARINGS RESCHEDULED:** A foul-up in getting the notices out for last month's scheduled zoning commission hearing on Connecticut Avenue downzoning has caused the commission to reschedule the hearings for November 10 and 20. The hearings are on proposals to downzone a section of Connecticut

## As we were

*From the diary of Buckner Thruston, a US Senator from Kentucky and a judge of the Circuit Court of DC. Reprinted courtesy of the Columbia Historical Society. Thruston lived at "Haarlem," a farm located one mile north of Georgetown. He also had a house on Capitol Hill, where he resided frequently during the winter months, but he noted that living in town was "little to my taste and much to the injury of my affairs, and particularly of the farm."*



19th Century View of Rock Creek

"October 20th, 1811

The past Season until this Day has been uncommonly sickly in the City. Some cases of nervous fever very obstinate occurred early in July--in August bilious fevers were pretty frequent and increased thro' all September even until within a few days. There has been many Deaths and several cases of highly malignant Fever--even after the Commencement of the present Month. Jersey Avenue on the hill has suffered much and also the low grounds on the Canal & near it & on the Pennsylvania Avenue; the houses on the hill north of Capitol Square have been pretty free from the fever, as also my house and Mr. McCormick's adjoining. My family by the blessing of God have escaped. I lived until the 8th inst. on the north side of Capitol Square in the house of Mathew Brown on Street. I left the City with my

Family however (except 3 servants) from the 22d of Septr. until the 4th Instant. My little Son Alfred has had a slight tertian ague, which has yielded to a Dose of Calomel and the Bark. The season has been uncommonly wet & warm; great Rains in August and a wet Season since & we have had no frost as yet. The weather has been uncommonly warm all this month, & southwardly winds have blown unceasingly from the 1st inst. except for 8 or 10 hours on the 17th. The fever has been very fatal to those attacked this Month, & thro' the whole season has been severe on the aged & those who drank freely. The vulgar Belief is that the comet influences our Atmosphere; it is certain that the whole of this Month has been & continues to be uncommonly warm."



Avenue north of Dupont Circle, a key goal of many citizen groups in the area.

**TRUCKERS WANT TO FINAL APPROVAL:** Final approval of a proposal to expand the office building owned by the American Truckers Association in the 1600 blocks of O and P Streets comes up before the zoning commission on November 17 at 1:30 pm. The ATA wants to build 58,000 square feet on the site with a height of 72 feet for the office building and ninety feet for a residential building, which would have 87 units in it. The application is for a planned unit development and has already been given preliminary approval by the commission. The case is number 80-8/78-6F and further information can be obtained by calling the commission at 727-6311.

**RIEFFEL SLAPS BUDGET:** Alair Rieffel, Ward 2 school board member, says "it's shameful that the children of this city are being forced to shoulder the burden of the budget cuts. . . The Board of Education is virtually the only city agency which has begun to substantially control its spending, reduce its programs and lay off its personnel." In a letter to constituents, Rieffel also criticized Mayor Barry's "prolonged refusal to act to save the Sumner School Build-

ing. Said Rieffel: "While some initial efforts have been made to stabilize the building's structure, the roof remains uncovered almost a year after the courts ordered the mayor to provide a temporary covering."

**DUPONT CIRCLE NOTES:** Ernie Harper has been named to the Joint Committee on Landmarks.

- Dupont Circle's bassist extraordinaire Dave Burns has come out with two records featuring the Hot Mustard Jazz band. One features society swing and the other Dixie dance music. If you would like a copy of either, write Dave Burns Music, 1712 19th St. NW, DC 20009 or call 332-8212. The records are \$6 each by mail or \$11 for both.

- Tenants of the Brunswick House, 1414 17th St., filed a complaint when air conditioning was cut back last summer. Following the complaint the landlord agreed to remove a time device he had been placed on the central system.

- Tenants at 1824 Riggs Place have organized a tenant association after their landlord, citing overcrowding, threatened to evict two families with children. The landlord has now agreed not to pursue the evictions.

- Tenants at the Greystone, 815 18th St. NW, have also formed a tenants association following a notice of intention to evict for discontinuance of use.

- Tenants at 1824 Riggs Place have organized a tenant association after their landlord, citing overcrowding, threatened to evict two families with children. The landlord has now agreed not to pursue the evictions.

## WEST END

**TOUR BUSES REGULATED:** The Department of Transportation has taken steps to limit the congestion of tour buses in the vicinity of a hotel at 924 25th St. Area residents have complained that the buses park for long periods, often preventing access to private driveways, public alleys and roadways, and that they operate over streets not intended for buses, hinder local traffic flow and increase noise and air pollution. Now signs are being posted to direct the buses from New Hampshire Ave, along I Street, north on 26th St., east on Queen Anne's Lane, north on Hughs Mews to the alley behind the hotel. Leaving the hotel the buses will go south on 25th St., east on I, north on New Hampshire to Washington Circle. During night-time hours buses will be prohibited on this route and will be directed to bus stands at 25th & Virginia and 25th & K.

## CITY DESK

### Balance sheet on Barry

It's far too early to give Marion Barry final grades in the course he's taking, "Urban Financing in Times of Crisis 102," but he's not doing quite as badly as some people in this town seem to think. What happens when government starts going askew is that an extremely complex situation becomes oversimplified. The failure of a whole system becomes personified by the politician who gets left holding the bag. The current fiscal crisis was years in the making and while Barry must bear some of the blame, a generalized presumption that he is a unmitigated budgetary screw-up simply doesn't bear much analysis. One must be careful to separate the theatre of crisis from the reality.

For example, Arrington Dixon's childish and uninformed attacks on the mayor -- Barry, he said the other day, was "playing with the lives of the citizens" -- make fun politics but have little to with the subject at hand. If Arrington wants to become the Frank Shaffer-Corona of fiscal politics that's his business, but people seriously interested in what's going on would be best advised to ignore him.

Further, the press, in its frantic efforts to find something about the fiscal situation that will make in-

teresting reading, tends to distort matters by giving undue play to such peripheral matters as the mayor's federal slush fund. It's an interesting story, and worth covering, but it gains unwarranted importance just because it is simple enough for everyone to understand.

So let's try a slightly fairer assessment, looking at the cheerful side first:

- The Barry administration has permitted the most detailed and comprehensive analysis of the city budget this city has seen in recent years. Part of the current angst comes from knowing things we formerly were not allowed to know.

- The Barry administration has taken the first serious steps towards reducing the size of the city bureaucracy. The pace and priorities have not been the best, but the change in direction should be recognized and appreciated.

- The Barry administration shows far more interest in governmental efficiency than did its predecessor. Again, the manner in which this has been carried out is open to considerable criticism but the spirit is a noticeable improvement.

- Barry has shown an ability to learn from his mistakes.

- Barry has shown considerable courage in his attempt to hold down pay raises for city employees. While one may argue about the exact amount city workers should receive, his whole program of austerity would be threatened if he took the politically feasible route of caving in to the city unions.

On the other hand:

- Barry failed to gain control of his own bureaucracy after he took office. As a result there was significant overspending by his agencies that contributed directly to the funding crisis. Whether he is making headway in correcting this situation is not yet clear. There are, however, too many confusing signals and too few signs of leadership.

- His sense of priorities in cutting the budget seems awry. Far too much money is going into the fluffy and intangible area of "governmental services and support," too many cuts are being made at the lower end of the pay-scale and not enough at the top, too much is being taken out of the hide of the school system, and too little attention has been paid to so-called "non-discretionary" matters such as Metro and interest payments which could be more discretionary if the government chose to do something about them.

- Barry has suggested the scale of fiscal imbalance but has failed to tell us who we owe the money to,

leading some to speculate that there has been fiscal finagling of capital funds and other fast-shufflings. To what extent is the deficit the result of spending properly made and to what extent is the deficit a reflection of improper and, perhaps illegal, expenditures and transfers? This question remains unanswered.

- Aspects of Barry's bail-out scheme are highly questionable -- such as using long-term borrowing to cover operating deficits.

- A number of observers of the budgetary system feel that the personnel currently in charge aren't up to the job and that they are still not getting all the information they need.

- Finally, Barry has proposed a program that reduces government services without reorganizing them. He seems to be trying to do the same thing the same way -- only with less money. It won't work. The tendency

under such approach is for the Indians to be laid off and not the chiefs. A clear alternative would be to reduce supervision rather than service. For example the salary of one DS-15 bureaucrat would be more than enough to hire four DS-3s or two DS-10s.

We know school principals and ward recreation directors who would do just fine if all they got was an annual budget and authority to run their own programs. The hierarchy of the school system and the recreation department is in large part a redundancy, if not an actual interference. But the bureaucratic mentality of the downtown government, extending right up to the mayor and his aides, won't even permit a test of the relative efficiency and service provided by such a less costly approach.

Further, such sacred cows as Metro and the convention center will continue to eat up increasing portions

of the city budget until the government finally recognizes that a school is more important than a luxury transit service for suburbanites and that job creation requires a complex and imaginative series of programs rather than a single multi-block physical symbol.

- While there is a strong argument to be made that local taxes are about as high as can be reasonably supported, it is by no means certain that the business community is pulling its weight. The Board of Trade's own figures show that the central business district tax burden ranks it 15th among 19 major city CBDs. If these taxes were raised ten percent, DC would still rank 15th. Despite all the protestations from the local business community, it would appear that it is not pulling its fiscal weight.

So there are the figures. You can find your own bottom line.

## DC Eye

Phillip Merrill, publisher of the Washingtonian, was a member of the Washington area steering committee of Democrats for Reagan & Bush. Just thought you'd like to know.

Unfortunately, Patrick Tyler's excellent report on the National Bank of Washington ran concurrently with Gail Sheehy's equally endless series on the embattled Ms. Cunningham. Not only is there usually time for only one act of journalistic supererogation a day, but Tyler got so busy looking at checks and statements that he completely forgot to put in anything about sex. So you may have missed the choice tidbits about the late Joseph Danzansky who, at least until the Tyler series, was in the final stages of canonization -- awaiting only the appearance of a thin beam of light above his plaque in the Pennsylvania Avenue development area and confirmation of the completion of his promised miracle, the convention center.

Even better, however, was Tyler's analysis of how Sterling Tucker's campaign managed to get itself financed by NBW to the tune of \$50,000 in loans carefully distributed among supporters so as to stay within the \$1000 limit. The scheme is too complicated to explain here, but suffice it to say it begs for more than transitory attention by the authorities.

THE Council of Governments has come up with a contingency plan for dealing with a shutdown of public transportation in the area. The plans calls for priority routes for car and van pools, modified parking policies, flexible workhours, greater provisions for bike riders and pedestrians and expanded car and van pooling. Sounds good, but why do we have to

wait for an emergency to put such policies into effect?

Betty Ann Kane has introduced legislation to permit off-duty DC police officers to engage in police-related employment.

Last month, we raised the issue of bicycles on Metro, now we're pleased to report some slight movement in that direction. Jerry Moore has introduced legislation that would permit not more than four bikes on the rear car of Metro during weekends.

(Please turn to page 22)



## Roses & Thorns

- THORNS TO THE DC SUPERIOR COURT BOARD OF JUDGES for opposing the transfer of the judiciary to local control and ROSES TO DC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE THEODORE NEWMAN, the only member of his bench to speak on the subject. Newman says he favors local control because, "I believe in democracy."

- THORNS TO THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION for deciding that other utilities can sell power to the owners of the Three Mile Island reactor at reduced rates. The effect for DC residents is that they will be paying \$2-4 more annually on their electric bills in order to subsidize the discount for the misbegotten nuclear power plant.

- ROSES TO WALTER H. PERSON JR, chairman of the Washington Area Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. He cut through the tempest over "Jimmy," the eight-year-old addict, in a succinct letter to the Post. Said Person: "It is evident in the uproar over

"Jimmy" that the community deeply resists acknowledging its drug problem. Reporters catch hell for revealing an ugly truth, teachers and health professionals are castigated for not identifying and helping the child. But what help is available for heroin addiction in the District of Columbia?" The list was short: WACADA's own hotline, only two hospitals in the city offering detoxification programs -- for those who can pay (which most heroin addicts can't) and a program for southeast residents in a psychiatric ward at St. E's. The city's drug abuse service does not provide inpatient detoxification nor does DC General. Concludes Person: "I hope that some of the energy and concern will focus on the dearth of resources in our community."

- THORNS TO THE SATURDAY REVIEW for its September article on the "Preservation Craze" in which it described Rhodes Tavern as an "ugly little box" with "nothing to recommend its preservation but its age."





# Weather

# Report

Nr. 4

November 1980

Medical experts from 14 countries meeting in Geneva say that underground bomb shelters would be useless in cities under attack in a nuclear war. Bombs no stronger than one megaton would turn shelters six miles away into ovens for the occupants, the doctors say. The surface fires created by a single nuclear blast would cook and asphyxiate everyone in underground shelters within a six-mile radius. The doctors add that even shelters farther away provide only temporary protection against radioactive fallout. They say that the survivors would eventually be forced to emerge into a "living nightmare," a world of contaminated food and water, and unburied corpses.

§

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent out a warning to every airport and nuclear power plant operator in the US stating that a "pouch" has been developed that enables terrorists to smuggle weapons or explosives past x-ray machines. The memo, dated last May 5th, describes the pouch as made of gray metal foil measuring approximately 20 by 12 inches. The warning says that the pouch can be used to line "hollow compartments of hand-carried packages and parcels, such as attache and cosmetic cases. It dupes security machines because the pouch produces x-ray images which show up as "only a mottled picture with no indication of a solid mass, such as that of a weapon or similar contraband. The NRC has not specified what metal this "invisible pouch" is made of, nor how the government learned of its existence.

§

Almost a quarter of all federal judges have taken an all-expense paid two-week program in "free market" economic theory, a theory subscribed to by financial supporters of the program, including large corporations which regularly litigate before their courts. A petition filed by the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown Law Center calls on the Judicial Conference of the United States to review the program run by the center for Law and Economics at the University of Miami, and to establish guidelines for judges' participation in such programs. Corporations funding the program including Exxon, ITT, General Motors and Northrop. According to the judges' own statements, they are substantially influenced by the program in their general attitude towards governmental regulation and in their disposition of particular cases.

## How to Avoid Nuclear War

RAYMOND L. WISE

On March 11th, newspapers carried a story reporting on a study by two Washington, D.C., physicians, Dr. Frederic Solomon and Dr. Mary Coleman. They wrote that, in an all-out nuclear war, 90 percent of the population of both the United States and the Soviet Union would die as a direct result of the thermonuclear blast and radiation. Most of those who did not die immediately would perish within two weeks, either from acute radiation sickness or from lethal burns from the sun. The nuclear exchange would destroy most of the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere. The sun's rays, without the ozone screen, which now protects us, would kill anyone within one hour whose skin was uncovered.

A second article, published in newspapers the next day, was even more frightening because it was an official study of the United States government, compiled by the Office of Technology Assessment for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It predicted that 88 percent of the population of the United States would be killed in a nuclear exchange but only 40 percent to 50 percent of the population of the Soviet Union, because of the "more scattered nature of the population of the Soviet Union" and because of the higher yield of Soviet warheads.

In addition to the danger of an intentional nuclear war there are the possibilities of an accidental nuclear war and of a wildcat nuclear war.

The danger of an accidental nuclear war is greater than generally realized. The image of a falling meteor could be misread on a radar screen for a nuclear attack. In October, 1960, a freak of the moon's rays looked like Soviet missiles. Fortunately, Air Marshal Roy Slemmon of Canada took action to avoid the greatest disaster-by-mistake in history. On November 9, 1979, and again twice in June, 1980, computers of the North American Air Defense Command gave an erroneous warning of a Soviet attack. Luckily checks quickly revealed the errors.

A "wildcat war" is extremely unlikely, but could be started without authority by those in charge of nuclear command centers.

The vast numbers of nuclear weapons are a danger in and of themselves. The Soviet Union has 20,000 warheads and bombs and the United States 30,000 warheads and bombs, each with the equivalent of from one million to twenty million tons of TNT in strength. The 1945 Hiroshima bomb had only the equivalent of 15,000 tons of TNT.

Against this background, we should insist that politicians of both parties come up with a feasible plan for preventing nuclear war. Nothing is being done and something must be done to avoid nuclear destruction. There must be desire, a plan, persistent, co-operative effort, and leadership.

There are 154 countries in the United Nations. When they signed the UN Charter, they agreed to abolish war. We must find a way to get them to live up to their agreement. There are only an average of about ten men and women in each country who make the principal policy decisions. Thus, in a sense, a total of about 1,500 people control the world. We have only to convince them.

When a public utility wants higher rates and lower taxes, it lobbies legislators for them. No one is "lobbying" the 1,500 leaders to abolish war. Nations as well as people act from self-interest. The 1,500 must be persuaded that it is to their own individual self-interest and to the self-interest of their nations to prevent war.

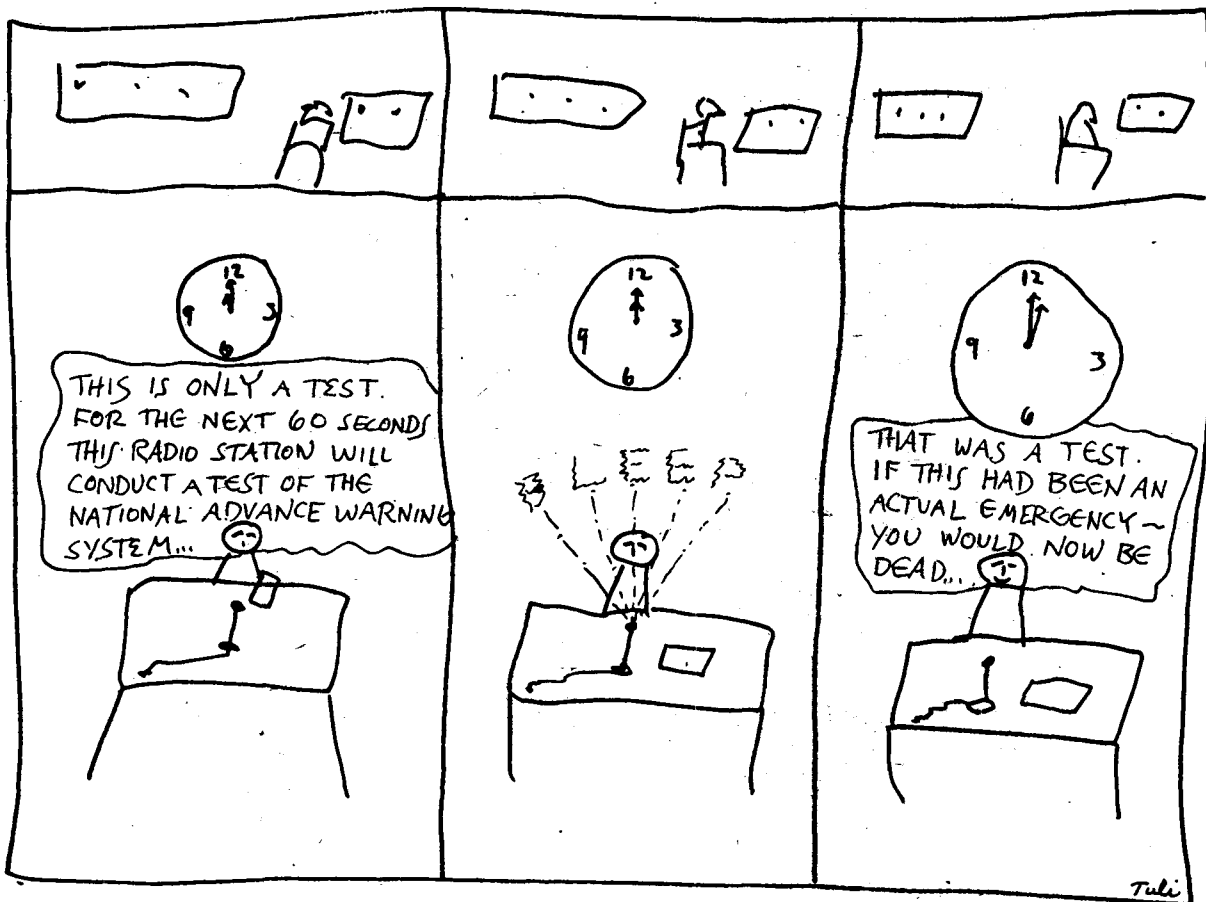
The UN Secretary General is in an excellent position to do some lobbying. Our government could also do some of it. To persuade nations to abandon the use of force to settle international problems, however, they must be offered an effective practical substitute for war. At present, there is none. There is the International Court of Justice, but it can decide only legal issues and has no way to enforce its decisions. Iran's refusal to appear before it in connection with the seizure of the American hostages is the latest example of what is wrong with the court as a substitute for the use of force. What is needed in addition to the court is an international board of arbitration which would be entirely different from the court.

It should consist of five individuals appointed by the UN and respected and admired all over the civilized world for their integrity, knowledge and intelligence. They should be appointed for life or as long as they are competent to serve.

If two nations had a conflict, they could agree to submit it to arbitration by the board. Each nation would be entitled to appoint two additional arbitrators, making a temporary nine member-board. No decision would be binding unless seven of the nine were in agreement. Then it would be enforced by the collective power of every other nation.

As a practical matter, arbitration would work somewhat as follows:

In the Iranian situation, for example, in-



What do you do with a nuclear-powered submarine when it's retired from service after 20 to 30 years of duty? *Science Magazine* reports that Navy officials are wrestling with the problem of how to solve this question. The magazine says that the Navy is currently considering dumping old Polaris subs into trenches deep under the ocean. The Environmental Protection Agency has not permitted the dumping of any atomic waste materials at sea since 1970. Between 1946 and 1970, some 87,000 steel drums containing low-level radioactive materials were dumped. But a single submarine reactor contains more than half as much radiation as all those 87,000 drums put together. The magazine says that the Navy may yet convince the EPA to allow the scuttling of atomic subs at sea, on the grounds that the deep sea dumping will do "less harm to man and the environment than any other practical alternatives."

stead of taking the position that the only issue was the illegal seizure of the hostages, and that the United States had always been without fault, the State Department could have told the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini: "You have violated international law. You claim that you have acted as you did because of your grievances against the Shah and prior administrations of this government. We are willing to present these matters to the International Board of Arbitration."

In all probability, Iran would have been delighted to accept. With two of its own arbitrators on the board and with a seven out of nine decision, Iran would have been willing to present its side, which it could not do before the world court, where the only issue was the illegality of seizing hostages. Before the arbitration board, Iran would have been able to tell its story and "try" the Shah.

Similarly, in the case of the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, our State Department could have said to Moscow: "You have violated international law by invading an independent nation. Your conduct is indefensible. We are, nevertheless, willing to arbitrate with you as to some rational solution of the problems, real or imaginary, which caused you to take the improper steps you did."

Again, the Soviet Union would have reasons to accept arbitration. Now that China and the U.S. have become closer, the Soviets are even more deeply concerned over the 4,000 mile common border with China they must defend. To the southwest they have a 1,200 mile common border with Afghanistan. There are some 500 million Moslems in the world, over 15 million of them in the Soviet Union. There is a general world-wide Moslem rising against Communism because of its intolerance of religion and of individual freedom. Afghanistan is, predominantly, Moslem. The Soviets would be delighted if it could be turned into a neutral buffer state, either through the United Nations or by some collective security agreement with the NATO countries. A board of arbitration could take the first steps in this direction.

And finally, the Middle East situation could be more easily resolved if there were an international board of arbitration to which Israel and the Arab nations could submit

*Raymond L. Wise is a Florida attorney and the author of Legal Ethics (Matthew Bender, 1970).*

questions such as the right of Israel to exist with security and with recognition of the integrity of its borders, whether the P.L.O. is or is not entitled to recognition or legal status, whether the Palestinians have a right to a government of their own, whether the territory seized by Israel in the 1967 war should be returned, how Jerusalem should be governed, the West Bank settlements, and other questions.

As a first step, the State Department in cooperation with the Secretary General of the United Nations should urge the members of the UN to call a world conference to devise acceptable substitutes for the use of force in

settling disputes, such as a revised world court system, and the creation of an international board of arbitration.

Individuals can influence events. If you believe an international board of arbitration could prevent war, you can join a peace organization and urge it to advocate such a board. Write the President, your two U.S. Senators, your Congressman, your favorite newspaper, TV station, radio station, and other media. Get your clergyman, priest, or rabbi to preach a sermon about it. Make speeches about it.

Ask candidates for office to do something about it. Civilization as we know it is in danger, and the time is short.

## ACTION NOTES

**SHOPSTEADING:** Two Eastern cities are now experimenting with programs to put abandoned commercial properties back into business. The programs in Baltimore and Jersey city are called "shopsteading" and they are modeled on the familiar urban homesteading idea. Under the program, commercially-zoned abandoned properties acquired by the city through eminent domain or tax foreclosure are sold at nominal fees to people who agree to rehabilitate buildings and open a business there.

In both cities, prospective buyers are required to submit detailed financial and personal information as well as their plans for the property before the sale is made. Both cities also require that the purchasers stick to schedule in opening their shop. In Baltimore, if the shopsteader is unable to complete the required renovations in one year, the property is returned to the city. Once a business is open, the owners are required to operate the shop for specified period of time -- two years in Baltimore and five in Jersey City, before selling it. For more information on the Baltimore program, contact Kathleen Deasy, Shopsteading Coordinator, Office of Neighborhood Revitalization,

Department of Housing and Community Development, 222 East Saratoga St., Room, 707, Baltimore Md. 21203. -- David Jones, *Diffusion Project*.

**PHANTOM TAXES:** Loopholes in federal tax laws allowed the nation's major power companies to overcharge their customers by \$2.7 billion in 1979, the Environmental Action Foundation re-

## WEATHER REPORT

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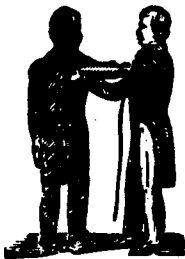
ports. Customers of these electric firms were billed for an average of \$4 each in 1978 for "phantom taxes that utilities never turned over to the government, the group alleges in a new report.

"It's the largest tax overcharge in the history of the electric utility industry," says EAF's Richard E. Morgan. He explained that through an array of legal "accounting gimmicks, the utilities used this money for other purposes, such as the construction of new nuclear plants.

In addition, EAF reports that 29 power companies paid no federal income taxes in 1979. In fact, these companies were eligible for \$144 million in tax refunds at the same time they were charging their customers as if they had paid \$698 million in income taxes.

This situations exists because of a clause in federal tax laws which allows utilities to keep two sets of books -- one for tax purposes and another to calculate the rates they charge their customers.

For a copy of the full report, including statistics on your favorite power company, send \$2.50 for Phantom Taxes in Your Electric Bill to EAF, 724 Dupont Circle Building, DC 20036.



**REPORT ON THE HOMELESS:** The Community for Creative Nonviolence, a Washington organization that has spent considerable effort on the problems of the homeless, has published an extensive report on the problem which would be useful to anyone anywhere dealing with the issue. Copies of A Froced March to Nowhere can be obtained for a contribution (the cost is approxiamtely \$3 a copy) to the Community for Creative Nonviolence, 1345 Euclid St. NW, DC 20009. (202-667-6407).

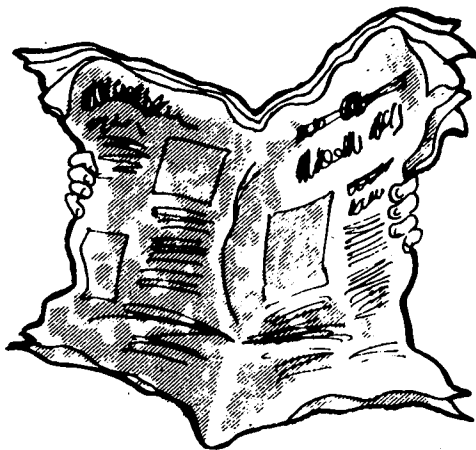
**CONFERENCE ON LOCAL ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FUTURES:** The Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies is holding a three-day conference on alternative energy in Austin, Texas on Dec. 11-13. Topics include financing the transition to solar energy, energy and the municipal crisis and energy and economic justice. The conference is designed for state and local officials as well as community organizers and citizen groups. Registration and meals are \$75 before Nov. 15, \$85 thereafter. The meetings will be held at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel. Info: Becky Glass, Energy Project, Conference on Alterantive State and Local Policies, 2000 Fla. Ave. NW, DC 20009 (202-387-6030).

**WHOLE EARTH COMING BACK:** For the first time since 1971, an entirely new edition of the Whole Earth Catalog is being published. Creator Stewart Brand says his new edition will consist of 608 pages, will be published by Random House, and will be subtitled: Access to Tools. Among the features will be a lengthy section on home computers and a detailed explanation of the techniques of artificial insemination. Says Brand of this latter section: "A lot of gay ladies are doing this out here, so we've gathered a lot of information on how to collect donor sperm, keep it alive for an hour's drive across town, and then how to insert it to achieve pregnancy." The book is expected to be out this month.

**POLITICAL HOTLINE FOR WOMEN:** An organization called Women USA has launched a national toll-free political hotline which provides information of national interest to women. The hotline offers a new recording every week concerning topics of special interest to women. Women USA also invites other groups to submit messages on national women's issues. For example, Bella Abzug has used the hotline to urge people to support Senate Bill 1843, which authorizes help for battered wives. The hotline can be reached by dialing 800-221-4945.

**SUCCESS OF ASIAN AMERICANS: FACT OR FICTION:** 28-page booklet, complete with useful charts on employment, salaries etc. available from the US Civil Right Commission, DC 20425

**THE TARNISHED GOLDEN DOOR: CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES IN IMMIGRATION:** A major study on the subject by the US Commission on Civil Rights. For information on purchase write the USCCR, DC 20425



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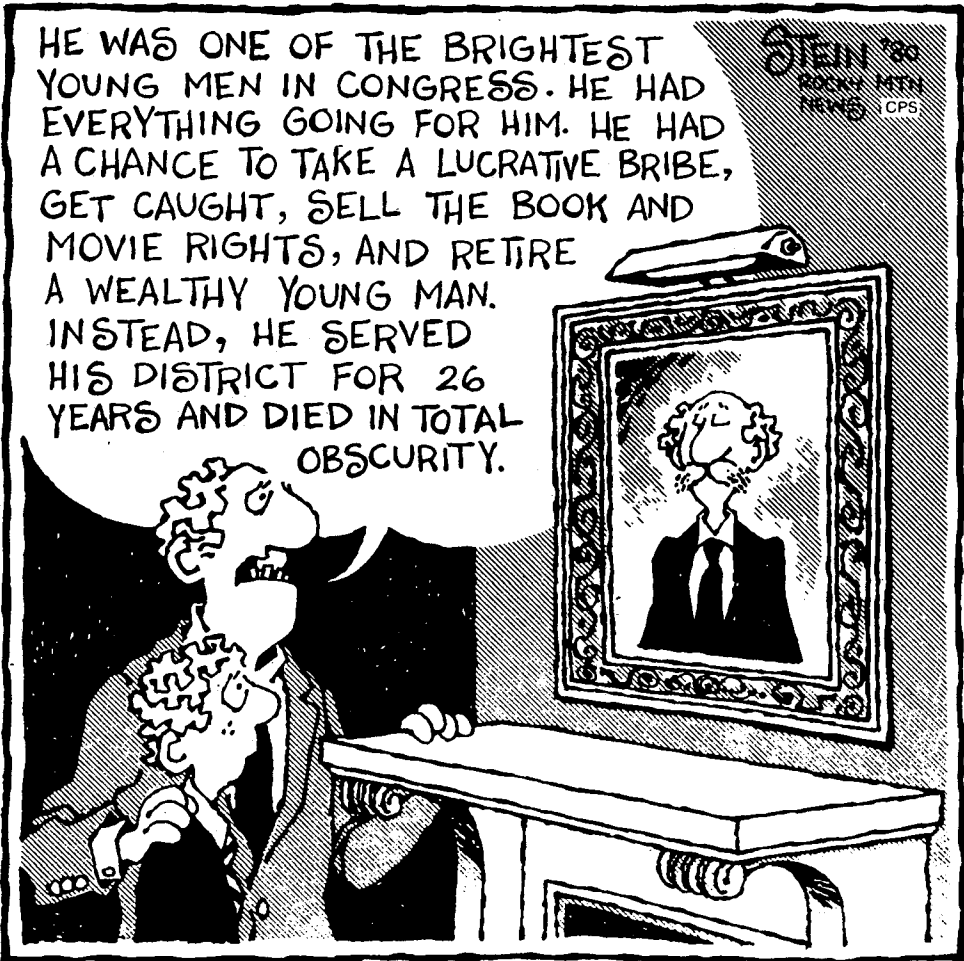
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## THE MEDIA: Two memos

ROBERT ALPERIN

1. You gave headline coverage to candidate claims when uncontested factual information showed the discussion to be ill-informed. You gave low priority to the information your readers need to evaluate the rival claims.

Headlines blared Reagan's charge that the administration had endangered national security for political purposes by talking about the Stealth airplane. It quickly became known that the trade paper Aerospace Daily had reported the plane as far back as 1976 (during the Ford Administration!) and that last year's edition of Jane's All the World's Aircraft had a section on it.

These facts bred no headlines, though they sometimes surfaced near the end of articles, still obscured by the headline and lead emphasis on the charges and responses to them.

Edward Teller's basic criticism, that the plane could be easily defended, never excited the news editors (although his Wall Street Journal piece was reprinted in the Post's Outlook section.) Well over a month after the debate quieted, the Post had a front page story questioning the claims for the planes effectiveness.

Reagan's B'nai B'rith speech was front page in both DC dailies. His references to Jordan as a UN-designated Palestinian state -- completely inaccurate, were uncorrected over a month later. Similar inaccurate statements on the legality of Israel's West Bank settlements and the alleged content of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 passed unscathed, at least initially.

During the primary season it appeared the UN investigating commission was about to obtain the hostages' release. Both Carter and Kennedy made highly publicized claims that it was "I" who first proposed a UN investigation. Later, far down in a lengthy Post analysis was the reminder that Bani-Sadr had proposed such an inquiry in a letter to the UN shortly after the crisis started. (Post readers did better than most media consumers.)

Would not the public be better served if headlines proclaimed that both candidates had "forgotten" (let us be charitable) Bani-Sadr's letter? The first paragraphs might have reminded us that, at that time, Carter was taking measures against Iran and making very tough speeches and Kennedy was saying nothing.

2. You continue to cover Southern Africa as if there were white majorities. This is as true of newly-independent Zimbabwe as of South African-ruled Namibia/South West Africa. Largely ignoring how freedom has affected the daily lives of the majority, coverage has emphasized how events affect the confidence of the small white minority. The most typical stories are of clashes among blacks, and the most publicized stories have been the resignation of the white Army commander and the arrest of Cabinet Minister, Edgar Tekere, accused of a part in the killing of a white farmer.

Because the media ignored the African side of the war, Mugabe's massive electoral victory was a surprise almost to the end. To evaluate possible effects of the Tekere case the media must move beyond concern for white response and seek to report the African perspective. Africans will note the evidence is gathered by the same old white police, and that white-dominated courts will sit in judgment. They will compare the outcome with the past practices in Rhodesia. How often were whites arrested, or tried, or convicted of killing blacks? What were the penalties? If convicted and given a severe sentence Tekere may accomplish some of his political goals. He has been a critic of what he considers the too-slow pace of African advancement. Mugabe may need to allay African suspicions by proving more benefits to the majority more rapidly. What alternatives are open to him?

Coverage of Namibia often focuses on military operations as reported by the South African government. As in the Rhodesian war, African sources are ignored mostly. Stories giving the SWAPO viewpoint of analyzing its bases of support are absent. The war stories leave the impression it is an increasing insignificant factor. Yet a leading South African academic had a series in the Rand Daily Mail (Johannesburg) suggesting SWAPO might win an election. If American news consumers like surprises they are well-served.

## American Journal

David Armstrong

If you think the Watergate era of government secrecy and repression ended when Richard Nixon was forced from office, think again. It's not only still here, it's about to be legalized.

Nixon and his partner in crime, former Attorney General John Mitchell, drew up a bill before they left office that, had it been law at the time, would probably have squashed efforts to unearth incriminating evidence on the administration. Called Senate Bill 1, a sweeping revision of federal crime statutes, the bill was stopped several years ago by a coalition of civil libertarians. Now, renamed Senate Bill 1722, this legacy of the Nixon era is back, with bipartisan support and nearly all of its repressive measures intact.

S. 1722 has the backing of liberal Senator Ted Kennedy and conservative Senator Strom Thurmond. A very similar bill, called H.R. 6915, is pending in the House of Representatives. At this writing, both bills have good chances of passing. That could spell disaster for American civil liberties, as the following "top ten" features of S. 1722 make clear. If passed, the bill would:

1. Authorize the arrest of persons who "physically interfere" with military recruitment or induction, or "incite others" to evade military service. Broadly interpreted, this could make many types of draft resistance and draft counseling illegal.

2. Prohibit physical interference with the "performance of an official duty," which could be used to arrest persons who, say, block a door to a post office in an anti-draft registration demonstration. Violators could be fined \$25,000 and sentenced to a year in prison.

3. Make illegal any property damage that may occur at a nuclear facility or any energy-producing or distributing plant during a demonstration. The punishment: up to five years and \$250,000 for individuals, a cool million dollars for organizations.

4. Prosecute journalists who refuse to reveal confidential new sources. That would have spelled the end of "Woodstein" and "Deep Throat" a few years ago.

5. Make illegal the leaking of confidential information relating to national defense. This is a codification of the law used, unsuccessfully, to prosecute Daniel Ellsberg for making the historic Pentagon Papers available to the public.

6. Narrow the U.S. Supreme Court's definition of "contemporary community standards" to "local community standards" in judging allegedly obscene material. This means that any locality could spark prosecution of a national publication—in effect, setting artistic standards for the whole country.

7. Enact stiff mandatory sentences for a multitude of crimes, discouraging alternatives to prison. This would greatly increase the number of inmates in already-overcrowded federal prisons.

8. Order landlords and the telephone company to cooperate "forthwith" and "unobtrusively" with government wiretappers—and pay them for doing so.

9. Give judges broad new powers to jail and deny bail to persons accused of any crime, before the defendants stand trial. This, of course, would violate one of the basic tenets of law, the presumption that one is innocent until proven guilty.

10. Restore the federal death penalty for a number of crimes, including peacetime espionage.

Civil liberties organizations have banded together to stop S. 1722 and H.R. 6915—which will be hammered into a single, far-reaching law if both bills pass—before this extraordinary revision of federal law scuttles much of the Constitution. Civil libertarians are urging Americans to write their representatives, asking that they oppose the bills.

Opponents of the House and Senate bills hope that an open, in-depth debate will call overdue public attention to what could be the most important civil liberties legislation in this century. We don't have Richard Nixon to kick around any more, but if this ominous legislation passes, he just may have us.

## CHUCK STONE: Black leaders

The young blond teacher at the national seminar wanted to know why national black leadership seems to be sinking into a bog of choked impotence.

"Maybe," responded the black speaker, "the crisis is national. In 1980, American leaders are equal opportunity failures."

Historian Barbara Tuchman recently lamented in a US News & World Report interview that "these are not the times that evoke great leadership. It tells you nothing to have somebody sit and read from a TelePrompter in a studio. That's not what it takes to make decisions in the Oval Office."

These are worrisome times. But A-



mericans would tighten their budgetary belts with tight-lipped pride if they were being exhorted by a great leader. Instead, they have been exasperated by a presidential mediocrity, frightened by a roller-coasting economy and aggravated by a schizophrenic Congress.

After the trauma of Watergate, respect for the presidency began to decline. A year ago last June, Americans anointed Carter with the second lowest rating of presidential approval in the history of polltaking. When national confidence in the president hemorrhages, it has an effect on other leaders and institutions. On a scale of ten, Americans confidence in their leaders is minus four.

In the black community, it's closer to minus three:

- A front-page New York Times story, "Blacks Assailing Leaders as the NAACP Gathers," reported widespread feeling of black rudderlessness. Written by black reporter Sheila Rule, the story surveyed blacks who felt that no leaders, black or white, could reverse their deteriorating economic condition.

- While the 71st meeting of the NAACP was getting under way, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was threatening to picket the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

- Last summer, over a thousand delegates from 34 states met to found the National Black United Front, a new black grass-roots organization. Spearheading the movement is the outspoken Rev. Herbert Daughtry, probably New York City's most popular and fearless black leader.

Oba T'shaka, chairman of San Francisco's Black United Front, called for a broader-based coalition, but specifically excluded "black leaders created by whites who have sold out to whites and who function to keep community leaders from developing."

- A survey of black journalists and radio personalities revealed virtually no inquiries about Vernon Jordan the day after his shooting. An incredulous white supervisor with the city water department called my newspaper after he had asked his five black employees what they thought about Jordan's shooting and all five had shrugged, "So what?" Is Vernon Jordan more important to me as a white man, the supervisor asked a reporter.

§

Perhaps some discomfiting changes are occurring in the black community, changes which refuse to conform with popular expectations. Andrew Young, the widely revered former UN ambassador and still a folk hero among many whites, was literally chased out of Miami by angry blacks after he tried to assuage their justifiable bitterness. "Black leaders out of step with their people?" headlined a recent US News & World Report analysis by its black associate editor, Jeannye Thornton. Answering with a cautious affirmative, Thornton alluded to the "suspicion that well-known -- and well-heeled -- blacks are now part of the Establishment and have lost touch with ordinary people."

But the suspicion is transformed into fact when prominent black leaders line up dutifully behind Jimmy Carter and their constituency just as faithfully supports Ted Kennedy. When a black politician tries to sell his people a president

responsible for their worsening unemployment; he has broken the umbilical cord of communication with his constituents. He is no longer a leader, but an imposition.

§

But the fantasy that a community must always have a "leader" or "leaders" is a separatist fallacy fertilized by black leaders of vested interest and watered by a complicitous white media. Warns historian John Hope Franklin, "Blacks in particular may have been caught up in what I call the Booker T. Washington syndrome, the idea that there is someone who speaks for the black man."

Some of the bewilderment among blacks about their leaders is an over-protective, cheerleading black press. Especially guilty of rah-rah jingoism is Ebony magazine, the nation's largest black monthly. As the covers of Time, Newsweek and other periodicals feature influential political, business and educational leaders, Ebony's covers focus on hipswinging.

How can the black community be expected to develop any sophistication about who its leaders are when Ebony's covers during the last 18 months have featured Cicely Tyson, Gary Coleman, three male sex objects, Nivia(a model), the Commodores, Peaches & Herb, Grace Jones, the Jacksons, Ellen Holly, Diahann Carroll, Teddy Pendergrass, Beverly Johnson (a model), Sister Sledge, Sammy Davis, Stevie Wonder, Lena Horne and, for a second time, Gary Coleman?

Ebony magazine is living testimony to the authenticity of Maulana Ron Karenga's mourning that "Negroes buy more records than books and are dancing away their lives."

Many blacks worry that airing of communal dirty linen in public will debilitate unity and decelerate progress. Like Dr. Franklin's Booker T. Washington syndrome, that argument is also a myth. A community which lies to itself about the integrity of its leaders will eventually be consumed by their chicanery.

[Philadelphia Daily News]

## False promise of enterprise zones

JON STEWART

LONDON: Britain's conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, likes to tell a story about a time several years ago when he was walking with a Labor Party friend through the deserted, shabby streets of the Isle of Dogs, the old London docks area that now stands empty of people and enterprise.

His friend, he says, pointed to the rows of decrepit, boarded-up old houses, now inhabited by rats and occasional bums, and remarked that they were "a dreadful monument to private landlordism."

"Absolutely not," answered Sir Geoffrey. "The fact that they are here in such numbers is remarkable tribute to the speed with which

19th-century private enterprise housed the newly urbanized people of our country... The fact that they are now in decay is a testimony to the impact of rent control, municipalization and other manifestations of political folly."

That little lecture took place two years ago. Today, Sir Geoffrey is at the head of the British Treasury and is putting into action the economic philosophy through which a 19th-century ghetto—which was never anything but a ghetto—looks like a proud monument to laissez-faire capitalism.

Sir Geoffrey's pet solution to the massive problem of post-industrial urban decay—devastated old industrial centers bereft of jobs and people—is an experiment called "Urban Enterprise Zones."

So popular has the project become in British government circles that U.S. Representative Jack Kemp is preparing to import it to the U.S. The Kemp plan, or some variation of it, even became a centerpiece of Ronald Reagan's campaign promises for the inner cities.

What is an enterprise zone, and why are so many people—including U.S. Democrats and urban black leaders—saying such nice things about it?

In the simplest terms, it is a tentative, partial return to the unfettered spirit of full-steam capitalism that did, in fact, turn Britain and America into industrial giants in the last century. It is also a repudiation of nearly a half-century of government urban planning which is increasingly blamed with contributing to the paralysis of the industrial economies.

Or, as Reading University economist Peter Hall, the author of the original idea, puts it: "It is essentially an essay in non-planning."

"Small, selected areas of inner cities," said Prof. Hall in his original proposal, "would simply be thrown open to all kinds of initiative, with minimal control. In other words, we would aim to recreate the Hong Kong of the 1950s and 1960s inside inner Liverpool or inner Glasgow." Or inner Detroit or the South Bronx, he might have added.

Hall's vision went so far as erecting customs barriers around such zones and requiring passports to enter and leave. "You really would be creating a kind of state within a state, a kind of Monaco with its own rules and regulations—or more appropriately, lack of rules and regulations," he said in an interview in his comfortable suburban London home. "The idea was," he conceded, "an extremely drastic last-ditch solution to urban problems."

Geoffrey Howe—who was not yet Sir Geoffrey—picked up the idea from Hall and molded it to his own sense of the possible. Along the way he discarded Hall's proposal that Asian entrepreneurs, who—unlike the English—have demonstrated a fierce talent and tradition of small enterprise, should be encouraged to emigrate to British cities to take advantage of the proposed new freedoms from government regulation and taxes.

Sir Geoffrey's plan, which was formally approved this summer by Parliament, is a far tamer version of his own original proposal, which called for numerous tax concessions for developers who would go into the enterprise zones, as well as a thorough sweeping away of regulations, including health and safety codes.

Behind the experiment is the key notion that such regulations have fatally crippled the entrepreneurs' ability to counteract the general de-industrialization of the old inner cities. Proponents of the idea point to various studies upholding this belief, such as a poll conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in the mid-70s which showed that the



four greatest problems facing small businesses were, in order, government regulation, inflation, taxes and bureaucratic paper work.

Indeed, one needn't be a businessman to recognize the fact that government at all levels has constructed an immense edifice of regulations covering all aspects of economic development. While many, or most, of the regulations are designed for the good of the workers and community at large, the sheer bulk of regulations—combined with rising land costs and development taxes—have often resulted in no workers at all, and lifeless communities. The burdens are especially heavy on the small entrepreneur, who may be as short on business experience (and knowing how to bypass regulations) as he is on cash.

Thus, the core of the enterprise zone philosophy is to throw the whole book of government planning, and taxing, out the window, at least in selected urban areas which have reached such a state of deterioration as to appear hopeless. Then let the entrepreneur come in and do his stuff, revitalizing the industrial garden with the fertilizer of free market economics.

That was the idea. The reality, tempered by what was politically practicable, is something else. The present British plan, which will be applied to seven announced enterprise zones, each of about 500 acres, is actually little more than a huge tax concession. All health and safety regulations will remain in effect, as will pollution codes. There will be a significant loosening of the strings by local planning authorities, although the specific effects of this remain to be seen.

The primary concession is a 100 percent writeoff of land and property taxes, along with all capital gains taxes. Thus, developers within the zones—whether they rent or buy—will pay no taxes for the privilege of being on the land, nor on the enhanced value of the land once they develop it.

The hitch, of course, is that because of the tax concessions within the zones, the value of the land will immediately rise, with all profit accruing to those who owned the land before it was declared an enterprise zone.

Because of this, the plan has been roundly criticized as nothing more than "a massive invitation to speculations and to uncovenanted capital gains," as Fred Hooley, the Labor MP for Sheffield, a hard hit steel town, termed it. "They will not provide jobs for unemployed steel workers and engineers," he predicted, "however, there will be jobs for property sharks, real estate men, lawyers, accountants and tax fiddlers."

Government officials candidly admit that the zones will probably not attract much in the way of heavy industry. Nor will they be especially attractive to small enterprise, given the certain inflation in land values. Rather, the most likely kind of new enterprise in the zones, say officials, are supermarkets and high-rise office blocks. Treasury Department officials argue that labor intensive industry is outmoded. "Isn't it better to have office development and some jobs, than no jobs at all?" asked a Treasury official.

Other critics object that the new zones will have a detrimental effect on the immediately surrounding areas because of their tax advantages. What if small and mobile kinds of existing businesses simply pull up stakes and move into an enterprise zone to take advantage of the better tax deal? Isn't that robbing Peter to pay Paul?

And finally, what happens when the experiment ends, after the 10-year guaranteed tax break? Will firms which have been operating successfully without taxation still be successful when taxes are suddenly re-imposed? Because of this uncertainty, the banks and pension funds which are expected to finance enterprise zone development have shown a marked caution about getting into them. Bankers, after all, depend on strong and careful planning and get nervous when faced with experiments based on non-planning.

Most of these criticisms and questions apply with equal force to the American version of the British plan. Representative Kemp's legislative bill, which has drawn some bi-partisan and minority support from people like Rep. Robert Garcia (D.-N.Y.), and the Urban League's Vernon Jordan, is even less

an assault on government regulation than its British model. It relies exclusively on tax exemptions, most notably a 50-100 per cent exemption from Social Security taxes—a measure that might encourage more labor-intensive industry and thus create more jobs. But the net effect of the plan still runs the risk of doing little more than shifting capital and employment from one place to another.

As Peter Hall put it: "The bottom line is whether or not these zones create new jobs. If they don't, they are just a rather expensive way for government to look like it's doing something."

## America's young ills

MARY CLAIRE BLAKEMAN

SANDRA Johnson did most of the cleaning and motherly chores before she finally moved out of the house. She is somewhat shy and tends to worry too much. She goes to school, smokes cigarettes and likes "junk" food. She is 15 years old—and she has an ulcer.

Sandra (not her real name) is a black teenager from East Oakland, Ca. But ulcers, or their symptoms, are an increasing problem for young people everywhere in the country. In 1968, statistics from the National Health Survey recorded 0.9 per thousand incidences of stomach and duodenal ulcers in those under 17. By 1975, the that figure had jumped to 1.2 per thousand then up to 2.2 in 1978, according to preliminary data for that year.

Ulcers are only one barometer suggesting that an entire generation may be succumbing to adult illnesses just when it should be at the peak of youthful fitness. Other diseases, like

## Body Beat

People who eat large quantities of certain vegetables may be downing a lot more pesticides than they're aware of. The California Rural Legal Assistance Organization reports that there are more than 70 fruits and vegetables -- including avocados, blueberries, brussel sprouts, mushrooms, plums and radishes -- which are classified by the government as "seldom consumed" foods. According to the group, the government assumes that the typical American eats less than seven-and-a-half ounces of each of these foods each year. Therefore it permits relatively high levels of pesticides to be used upon them. The group has filed suit, claiming that people who happen to eat a diet heavy in, say avocados or mushrooms, are possibly getting hazardous levels of pesticides in their food.

§ Preliminary studies by researchers at the Georgetown University Medical Center indicate that high-fiber, bran-enriched foods, such as bran muffins, alter the body's zinc metabolism and increase the total loss of zinc in humans. Zinc has been established as one of the more important metals in the

human body. It contributes to growth, liver and muscle function, protein synthesis and general stabilization of cell membranes.

According to Robert I. Henkin, M.D., the principal investigator of the study, "A zinc deficiency may cause irritability and temperament change as well as other problems such as skin rashes, taste loss and loss of appetite."

§

A new University of California study has found that negative ions in the air help to stimulate brain growth and the production of certain brain hormones. Experiments with rats found that the ones exposed to negative ions developed cerebral cortex areas that were nine percent heavier than those of the rodents exposed to positive ions. A number of researchers have previously reported that air which is heavy in negative ions has a beneficial effect on moods and alertness. Negative ions are often found in nature around waterfalls, in heavily forested areas and in moist coastal areas. The study was conducted by researcher Marian Diamon.

§

It doesn't matter whether women drink,

smoke, or engage in other unhealthy activities -- they still live longer than men. This according to University of California epidemiologist Deborah Wingard who studied the health records of 4725 men and women in 1965. Wingard said she expected that men were more likely to have certain poor health habits, such as smoking and drinking, and that was why they characteristically died at younger ages than women. Wingard said, however, that she found that men who smoked had a greater chance of dying than women who smoked. She also said that in every other instance, where men and women had the same behavior patterns -- such as sleeping poorly, physical disability, alcohol consumption and marriage status, women still outlived men. The study found that despite having, in many cases, worse health habits than men, women still consistently outlived men by an average of nine years.

§





hypertension and arthritis, are also turning up in children and teenagers:

- The incidence of arthritis in the under 17 group was less than one per thousand in 1969, the National Health Survey showed. By 1976 that rate had tripled. The national Arthritis Foundation estimates that there are now 250,000 children with the disease.

- Professor Thomas Gilliam of the University of Michigan found evidence of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity and other conditions associated with adult heart disease in almost half the elementary school students he had tested since 1975. Similar findings were reported in the Bogalusa (La.) Heart Study in 1979.

Hypertension diseases in the under 17 group went from less than one per thousand in 1974 and 1976 to 2.2 per thousand in the 1978 data, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Interestingly, ulcers, hypertension and arthritis are all included in what doctors call "psychosomatic diseases." "Psychological stress develops because of unusual life pressures and your individual sensitivities," explains Dr. Donald Oken of the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, N.Y. "You react with a particular emotion and that emotional state affects certain body organs more than others. If the organ is a vulnerable one and the stress goes on and on, eventually it will break down. Then you develop a disease."

If response to pressure is the trigger which can set off illnesses, the young people of 1980 are surrounded by loaded pistols. High divorce rates have left an estimated 20 million children under the age of 18 in broken families. Diminishing job and educational opportunities can be frustrating and promote

pessimistic views of the future. Also, change in our mobile society occurs constantly, and presents an array of lifestyle and value choices which can be overwhelming to teenagers already experiencing life's most unstable period.

Family problems are the "major factor in adolescent stress," says Dr. Cathy McDonald, director of the Adolescent Program at Children's Hospital in San Francisco. Fights with her divorced mother's boyfriend prompted Sandra Johnson to move away from the family and into an aunt's apartment. Change also acted as an earlier stress for Sandra when her family relocated from a small southern city to California. "It was a real drag," she recalls.

Dr. Edward J. Stainbrook, professor emeritus of human behavior at the University of Southern California School of Medicine, cites the amount of change in our society as a major contributor to disease. "People are going through many of these cycles of stress rather than going through them occasionally," he says. "With a few changes, there's not so much stress, but it's the frequency that's hard on the body."

Many of the stresses we now face are not only frequent, but often relentless. One ongoing stress factor—noise—is a prime example. In a Los Angeles study, the blood pressures of children who lived and went to school near the international airport were compared to those of children from quiet areas. The airport children fared worse than their peers from less noisy areas. Noise researchers have discovered similar results in test animals.

In young people, the sense of control in a situation is also important. Dr. Sheldon Cohen, associate professor of psychology at

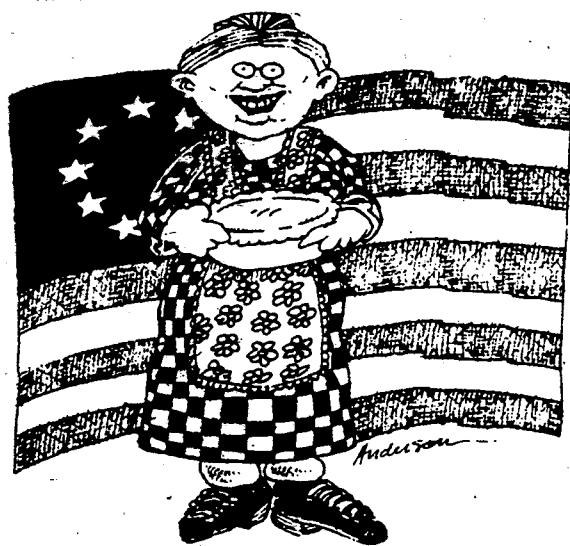
the University of Oregon, noted in the Los Angeles airport study that "children who don't control their outcomes—noise levels—showed helplessness, low motivation and they tended to give up on difficult tasks. The group of people who don't generally control their outcomes—the institutionalized, prisoners, children, and elderly groups—are the most susceptible to stress and stress-related diseases."

Evidence of this susceptibility emerged in a study at USC in which children immobilized in casts developed high blood pressure. Dr. J.P. Henry of the USC Medical School adds, "Anybody who's frustrated enough gets high blood pressure."

Frustration could easily account for some of the rise in hypertension among the young—particularly since the bulk of American youth increasingly come from poor, unemployed, black and other minority populations. "Health correlates with socioeconomic status," says Professor Stainbrook. "The lower it is, the worse your health is in every way. Other things being equal, when you add poverty to all the other stress factors, there's going to be more stress."

In addition, Dr. Stainbrook says that adapting to fluctuating values can be especially hard on the young. "Twenty years ago an adolescent's task was simply to break away from the family and create a confident, independent self. Then he was to return to the society that the family had prepared him for."

"Now, because of rapid change, there's no stable society in which to enter. And society does not invite entrance, it makes you fight for it."



## Apple Pie

A RHODE ISLAND man has been fined \$200 for killing a stray cat by putting the animal in a microwave oven.

§

If your mouth waters when you look at those luscious food ads in magazines, you're probably being fooled. Nutrition Action magazine reports that many food advertisers use a variety of photo tricks to make the ads eye-catching. For example, shaving cream is commonly used instead of whipped cream; vinegar is used in lieu of tap water; salt is added to beer to produce a nice-looking head and those ice cubes in cold drinks are probably clumps of cellophane. According to the Federal Trade Commission, most of these photo tactics are not regarded as misleading or deceptive.

§

Cambridge Alternative Power (617-547-0400) is offering a solar beanie with a propeller that spins from the energy of the sun. The beanie is a hard metal helmet with a photovoltaic cell mounted on top and costs about \$10.

§

Three British scientists report they have devised a method to determine if a certain author wrote a specific book, or even if a suspect's murder confession was forged by someone else. The new method is called "stylometry," and is based on the tendency of individuals to use certain favorite words in favorite positions, such as at the beginning or end of sentences. Using a computer, the researchers have already exposed a police-manufactured murder confession. Actually, there is nothing much new in this story: years ago Rex Stout's detective, Tecumseh Fox, unmasked a murderer with the help of a note in which the word "pavement" was used instead of "sidewalk." But it's nice to see fact catching up with fiction.

§

The National Education Association says that 113,000 of the country's two million public school teachers were physically attacked last year and that 26,000 of them were attacked twice.

§

Mechanical Broncos a la Urban Cowboy are beginning to show up in bars and nightclubs. Incidentally, Zodiac News Service reports that John Travolta managed to stay on his by having holes drilled for his legs to fit inside. Then artificial legs were attached outside to make it look as if Travolta was staying on the machine through his skill.

§

Britain's Inland Revenue has approved a plan for pensions for rock stars. Under the plan, the rock artists can retire at forty. In England, most people are eligible for retirement at 60, but boxers, croupiers and jockeys can be pensioned at fifty and soccer players can receive pensions at 35.

§

Warden Don Bordenkircher of West Virginia Penitentiary noticed earlier this year that knife blade-like slivers of metal had been cut from some steel bunks in the prison. When an inmate told him how the job had been done, says Bordenkircher, "It absolutely blew my mind. It was such a clean cut." The explanation: dental floss used with an abrasive like tooth powder. The warden tried it himself and cut through some prison bars in about two hours. As a result, dental floss has been added to the list of items prisoners can't have.

§

The Ford Motor Company has been the most vocal of the automakers in asking for government action against Japanese imports. But when it invited a group of international automotive writers to see the new 1981 models last month, it gave out prizes that show its commitment in doubt. The writers who excelled on a test about auto-servicing received a Japanese wristwatch. The writer who scored the highest on a fuel economy driving competition walked off with a Japanese-made color TV set and the winner of that prize works for a Japanese car magazine.

§

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S A M S M I T H

Could you stop the renaissance of Washington a minute? I want to get off. I have to run down to People's and restock my inventory of Roloids before reading one more article about how the city is being reborn, revived and revitalized. This city, the Paris of prevarication, the London of dissemblance, the Florence of deceit, has outdone itself; it is telling itself and the world that it is getting better.

Without a doubt, there is a new Washington, but it does not follow, as the Washintonian suggested recently, that the city is "coming of age." The very claim reflects regression in the maturity of self-perspective. And there certainly is no renaissance -- for that you need ideas. This town hasn't seen an idea of any magnitude since the anti-poverty program. To be sure, there is "cultural growth" but it is largely characterized by an artistic oligarchy, critical promiscuousness and growing indifference to indigenous creativity. The much touted physical changes of the city have produced little other than rampant displacement; creepy, creeping homogeneity and an overabundance of automatic teller machines. Washington's "greater sophistication" is virtually indistinguishable from rampant cynicism and mindless profligacy, and its autoerotic fascination with power for its own sake threatens to prove that masturbation does cause insanity.

The real story of the new Washington is that the told story is a lie. Strip away the icons of progress-- Metro, the East Wing, the Kennedy Center, Neiman-Marcus and Pises, and you will find a new Washington that is not vibrant; it merely vibrates. A Washington that is not more sophisticated because it comprehends and considers less. A Washington whose interest in culture is marked more by acquisition than by appreciation. And a Washington whose power is, in truth, declining because it has lost the key component of respect. The whole country and the world thumbs its nose at the Capital of the Free World. It used to be that if you came to Washington from Peoria you'd be embarrassed to say so. Now it's the other way around.

The new Washington disdains nearly every contact with the city as a community and treats the place as part shopping mall and part Plato's Retreat for the ego. The new city is the one you read about in Style and Washington Life (the old city is stuck in the ghetto of the District

Weekly --a peculiar ghetto at that, since it is only open on Thursdays). It is the city of real estate dealers rather than merchants, the city where you damn well better not leave home without it, clone of Gotham, sire of scandal so tawdry that it has discredited political corruption, the city in which a day's work can consist of a memorandum revised, a two-hour quiche lorraine and martini lunch and four phone calls to say you're all tied up. The city in which never have so many been paid so much to do so little. The city that is ripping off the nation and only fooling itself. The city, (to improve the cliché) which in just two short decades has changed from a sleepy southern village to a catatonic northern metropolis.



Fortunately, there is still an old Washington, a place with character, civility, creativity and common sense. I think of it as DC, not Washington (new Washingtonians never call it "DC"). But this old Washington is rapidly becoming an endangered species.

Many of the species see through the Gucci-Pucci facade of the new Washington. Some are angered and frustrated by it. Just when we seem to be making progress in our tedious struggle towards political autonomy, economic and social forces are threatening to destroy what colonialism couldn't. A black friend admits that what worries her about statehood is that she won't be able to afford to live here when it happens. Voters in Ward Seven send an old-line Washingtonian to the city council because, implies a reporter for the Post, they distrusted and resented the new Washington style of his opponent. I meet a long-time activist on the street and ask how it's going. He practically yells at me: "I'm so fucking mad at these Cleveland Park lawyers. All they want to do is deregulate energy." Henry Allen, in a funny and perceptive piece, gives a heretical tour through the absurd world of Washington's "Players." A woman, formerly with the city government, goes to work high in a federal department and finds that the District Building wasn't so bad after all.

Occasionally, even someone who you might think would be a prime enthusiast of the ethos of the new Washington turns on it, as Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus did recently

in an interview with Associated Press. He said he was tired of the "silly games they play" in Washington and is going back to Idaho.

"When I was governor I could implement a decision quickly. I could even implement a poor decision. . . Here you can't even implement a good decision in a timely fashion. . . There is no credit ever given for success. In this city, there is no clear success. It's just varying degrees of defeat. It's like playing 100 games of chess, and you're one person playing against the other hundred, and you have to run around and make all your moves. . . The life-style [in Idaho] is more relaxed. The humidity is between 9 and 15 percent. The people are friendlier. It's a different atmosphere. The reason you people live here is you don't know any better."

Of course, Andrus like most federal officials, never got to know DC -- only Washington. But his unhappiness reflects complaints of local residents who feel something happening to the city that leaves them disquieted. It's not just the federal influence; that's always been there. It's the quality of the influence and the arrogance and relentlessness with which it is being pursued. The old city is not just being submerged; it's under attack.

You can see the effects almost anywhere you look. The disappearance of eating and drinking places that cater to other than the expense account crowd. The eviction of neighborhood shops and services. The growing tumor of institutional architecture. A downtown designed for those who work here but don't live here.

You can see it in the business community. A few years back it was represented by people like John Hechinger, Gilbert Hahn and Frank Rich. Their politics were not always the best but they took a sincere and active part in the political and civic life of the city. There are no equivalents today amongst the new breed of commercial hustlers. They are too busy making money and turning their connections with city hall to personal benefit.

Or look at the old-line black establishment. Better yet, look for it. The Walter Washington/Sterling Tucker crowd has virtually disappeared from view in what appears to be a mass tacit surrender to the new Washington. On the other side, the last of the red-hot black militants, Doug Moore, has left no forwarding address.

Look, in fact, for any serious



criticism and analysis of the current high-rolling ethos of the city and you'll be disappointed.

Look at the artists. Has the East Wing helped them? Of course not. Has the Kennedy Center helped local theatre? Zelda Fichandler told the *Star* the other day that after 30 years of the Arena, "people are beginning to go back to the earliest syndrome we fought against -- hit shopping."

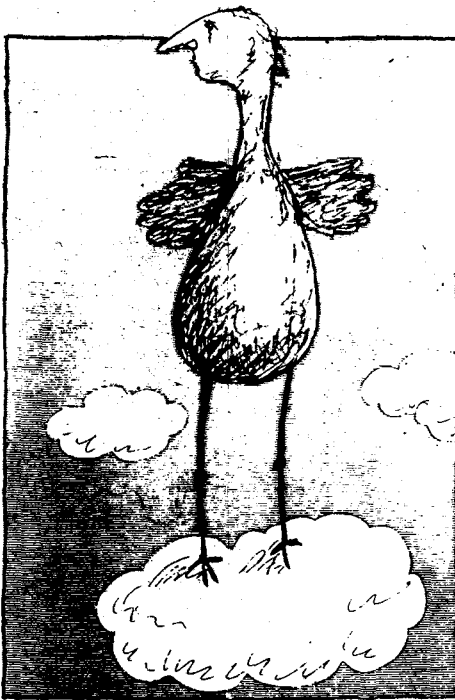
The truth is that the whole city has veered towards hit-shopping. Spurred by an affluent and intrusive transient elite, the city's values are being forced into transience as well. *New* has become a superlative form of *good*.

To be sure, much of the new Washington represents nothing more than the idiosyncracies of a new elite. Elites come and go and if they stay maybe they change. As long ago as 1898, an observer noted that Washington's smart set was "too much concerned with smartness to be interesting." But a hundred years ago such elites could be ignored; today they can't. Today elites bully their way into ordinary life.

Washington's old society of cave-dwellers was tolerable because it didn't bother anyone. The buyer at Woodies would have been fired on the spot if he had proposed stocking a fall line modelled on the wardrobe of Mrs. Bliss or Mrs. Post. The denizens of the Metropolitan, Cosmos or Sulgrave clubs would have dropped dead before they would have shared their *chio*.

But all this has changed, and it's not just a local phenomenon. Today elitism is mass marketed; it is part of popular culture. It is no longer sufficient to consider oneself better than the rest of the world; it is crucial that the world recognize it. This need, once characteristic of only a few elites (such as movie stars), is now felt by even Secretaries of State and heads of the National Security Council. Further, the absolute mass of the elite and would-be elite has grown dramatically here along with the city's affluence. More and more people are among the potential elite, the media has to constantly replenish its supply of people to recognize and industry needs more and more people who feel they afford what the elite should have.

This alliance between media, marketing and mobility has produced a significant new relationship between society as a whole and its elites. Not only has the definition of elite status been greatly broadened (witness the social climb of journalists, once among the most *declassé* of trades) but the non-elite have a difficult time avoiding the elite. To take just one small example, a few years ago a new store opened at White Flint called Bloomingdale's. Another new store, opened at Friendship Heights called Neiman-Marcus. Traditional market analysis would have suggested that this was enough for the area involved. But what happened? Within a short period, Woodard & Lothrop and Lord & Taylor, dowdy purveyors to Washington's middle and



upper-middle class, frantically re-designed their stores to emulate the competition. Things have since settled down, but for a time it looked as if this corner of Washington would have four elite department stores and not a single good-old wishy-washy one. The elite had not only determined high style, but low as well.

So elites are no longer a matter of secondary sociological concern. They determine what the place will look like, what we can or cannot buy, and what we eat. Further, in a town with a high disposable income, a larger segment of the population can purchase the accoutrements of elite status. ~~It's what they call in the trade an up-demographics market.~~ And in such a market, even if you don't have status you tend to pay for it.

Washington, we are constantly told, didn't used to be like this. How it used to be is generally described in disparaging terms, but those who use them usually omit the two major things wrong with old Washington: racism and heat. Civil rights and air conditioning created a new Washington long before anyone talked about it in such terms. Otherwise, old Washington was a pretty nice place. It was southern and as such, avoided the pointless freneticism associated with more northern concepts of the good life. It wasn't sleepy, merely relaxed. It had power but also sufficient style not to flaunt it with obnoxious redundancy. It had, as today, an indolent smart set but it was mostly kept safely away from positions of public trust and responsibility. True, it lacked some of today's amenities but it compensated by having things it has discarded in return for these amenities: character, community, and a sense of purpose.

Most of the people who tell you how much better Washington is today have no way of knowing. Their judgement of the present tends to be placed against the standard of the Big Apple (old Washingtonians considered the place *better* than New York rather than *almost as good*) and their judgement of the past has no standard whatsoever. In fact, Washington simply was not the place people tell you it was. It was fine.

Sure, people used to come to Washington for the thrill and the power, but few came for money and if they came for power they also came with some reason for the use of that power. They came with a mission as well as to make out.

To have known a Washington which had purpose, integrity, conscience, and creativity is to realize what a shoddy parody of substance the official city is today. And you don't have to remember so far back. Just recall the idealism of the Kennedy administration or the productive pragmatism of the Johnson domestic efforts and then try to say that Washington is growing and better. Washington's new face job has emasculated its heart.

The trouble, I think, began with John Kennedy who, in a spirit that mixed national imperialism with New England preppie chauvinism, set out to make Washington a place he would be proud to live in. True, the city gained some amenities but the tone he set also allowed such abominations as the Neo-Mussolinian Pennsylvania Avenue Plan. Other forces included the freeway and urban renewal programs, which not only would physically alter the city but introduce massive social change as well.

But Kennedy was killed, the freeway program was stopped, and the "Worthy of a Nation" crowd ran full force into rising black power and consciousness. In April 1968 it was forcibly halted by the riots.

In the aftermath, it was again time for choices. The choice made by the then commissioner/mayor Walter Washington was a tricky and elaborate compromise between his black constituency and his white economic base. The theology was black and the economics white. If you looked at where the city was, through subsidy, rezoning or encouragement, concentrating economic development, it was in the white or semi-white parts of town. The key to the survival of black Washington was seen as vastly increased tax productivity by white Washington.

Even then, it seemed to some a trap. There was no way that the developers and the land-grabbers were going to stop at ethnic boundaries. Once Georgetown, Friendship Heights, downtown and the West End were used up, the pressure would not disappear. On the contrary, the containment policy created massive physical changes, inflation in the housing market, and displacement in every corner of the city. Walter Washington wanted the city to become just a little pregnant but it didn't work out that way.

Contrary to widespread expectations, the policies did not produce a great influx of new white residents. Yet the town seemed to be more white. This apparent contradiction can be explained by a number of phenomena:

- The daytime population of the city was increasing. The so-called "pillow count" of residents, such as taken by the US Census, can be badly misleading in a city with heavy commuter traffic. Even back in 1970 the



daytime population of Washington increased by about one-third owing to this traffic -- and it was mainly white. Although we don't know the figures for the 1980 census yet, a recent traffic count by the Council of Governments shows that more than 30,000 additional people are coming into downtown DC every workday morning than was the case five years ago. This means at least a ten percent increase in the suburban participation in the DC workforce in just five years.

- Black population in DC has been on the decline, further accentuating the racial shift in workday population.

- White Washington -- both commercial and residential -- has taken more and more land for its activities, so that geographically black Washington has gotten smaller as well.

- To these changes must be added such other white daytime contributions to the city's population such as tourists, conventioners and business visitors. As one out-of-town businessman told me following a Board of Trade tour of the city: "You got the impression that the only black people in town were on the city council."

When you realize that ten years ago, DC residents made up only 38% of the downtown workforce and that today the figure must be significantly less, you wonder how any black politician could have placed much faith in "downtown revitalization."

But the black politicians did and the net result was to increase the number of jobs available to non-resident whites by tens of thousands, to geographically restrict the land available for black entrepreneurial exploitation or residence, and to promote a shift in the character of the local job market that is even more heavily weighted towards government and its economic parasites than was previously the case.

To this one must add the structural changes in American cities as a whole towards professional and service employment and the increase in local employment by government.

Atlee Shidler, in a recently released report from the Greater Washington Research Center, gives a flavor of the change in citing some statistics for the whole metropolitan region. Says Shidler:

- In 1960 professionals, technicians, managers and administrators accounted for only 28 percent of the area's jobs. By 1978 they accounted for 41 percent.

- While the area's population increased only 6 percent between 1970 and 1977, the number of adults 25 and over with college degrees went up by 60 percent.

- Just between 1974 and 1977 the number of households with incomes over \$35,000 increased by 230 percent.

Consider now some comparisons with other places:

- In 1977 the percentage of college graduates in the area was 32%, higher than any other metropolitan area. The figure for New York was 18% and for second place San Francisco, 25%.

- The Washington area has the

highest percentage of professional technical and managerial workers -- and the lowest percentage of blue collar workers of any major metro area in the country.

Here's how the Greater Washington Research Center sums up the changes:

"Decisions formerly made elsewhere in American society -- in other layers of government and in the marketplace -- are increasingly made in Washington. As a consequence, more and more the interested parties -- business, citizen organizations, state and local governments, universities, health organizations and other groups -- are coming to Washington to participate directly in that decision-making. Many open their own offices, some hire professional lobbyists, others rely on their association."

"These multiplying interest groups, as well as the federal government itself, need and attract lawyers, accountants, management consultants, scientists, information specialists, communications support, conference space, transportation facilities and many other 'business services.' The interest groups and the service industries are an increasingly indispensable part of today's system of national government. Indeed, they are the growing edge of national government. Their presence in Washington is not new, but their growth in the 1970s was unprecedented in variety and magnitude."

There were other changes of dramatic proportions. There was a significant decline in the number of families as well as the number of children they had -- reflected in the receding political interest in the public schools. Housing displacement and costs increased substantially. And Metro's expansion created new nodes available for economic exploitation.

In sum, the city during the seventies experienced a demographic, social and economic shift as significant in its own way as was the mass migration of blacks to DC in the fifties. Only this time the immigrants got to start at the top instead of the bottom.

Consider again what has happened in the past ten years. DC's population has dropped 121,000 yet tens of thousands of new jobs have been created here -- jobs that were not primarily for the majority of residents of Washington. They were jobs for white day-trippers from the suburbs, the people who went into court to block the professionals tax, the people we had to build the Metro for, the people who, in increasing numbers, came to Washington not to run the government but to get what they could out of it.

The job market was skewed towards non-taxpayers who still demanded both services from and influence over the city government. And those that did move into the city often did so without the slightest intention of becoming a part of it. They wanted networks not neighborhoods, contacts not families, and urban efficiency without urban involvement. Test the thesis yourself. Take a issue of purely local concern and try to arouse interest among residents in

one of the favorite neighborhoods of the new Washington. You'll be appalled by the general level of isolation and indifference. This is your new Washington, friends, and it doesn't give a damn.

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There has always been tension between those who saw this city as a community, a place to live and raise children, a home, and those who treated it as a motel on their way through life. The difference now is that the self-conscious effort to change the nature of Washington, to make it an HO-gauge New York, to embrace the big-time fetish, is not only foolish and destructive in itself but threatens the rest of the city as well. The city's true gifts, those of scale, comfort, sense of balance and friendliness, are endangered by a profligate, boring, self-promoting and philosophically rapid ethos that may give the city a new style but will remove its old substance. It may offer new amenities but only at the price of trashing the existing ones.

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There is no easy way to change the course that has been set towards a go-go, look-at-me, boomtime Washington, but the first step would seem to be some resistance. Those who want to preserve Washington's cultural heritage have to be as noisy as those trying to preserve its architectural heritage. Along with Don't Tear It Down, we need a group called Don't Wear It Down, dedicated to preventing the destruction of the city's soul by those who only take from it and give nothing in return. We need to hear at last from the black politicians, who thought they could outfox the developers but failed and who now, before it is too late, need to define what this city is going to mean for people who want to live here -- and not just use it. We need to stop thinking of everything in terms of tax production and economic growth and deal with issues such as whether we're happy with what's going on. We need to start guerilla warfare against the Gothamoid mentality that is seizing the place -- even at the risk of seeming provincial. In short, we need to fight to regain control of our city so we can start shaping it the way we would like it, rather than the way day-trippers, powerplayers, hit shoppers, consumers of change and high style groupies would like it.

In the meantime let's drink a toast to the renaissance of Washington: "May we live to see it."

--SAM SMITH





# Last Chance for the Schools?

One of the worst victims of the current city budgetary crisis has been the DC school system. A new organization has been formed to fight further decimation of the system: Parents United for Full School Funding. Here is its position paper on the issue which, as well as anything we've seen, tells it like it is.

The school system is currently absorbing massive cuts which disrupted the opening of classes in virtually every school in the city and will have reverberating and lasting effects for years to come.

The injury is not just the loss of 700 teachers, or even that among those were some of the most creative young teachers in the system. The lasting effect goes deeper. Many schools lost a quarter or a third of their teachers because seniority operates on a city-wide basis. They now find themselves with a group of unfamiliar teachers who transferred from other schools to fill in the jobs that weren't cut out. It will be years before some of these schools can regain the esprit and the effectiveness they had before.

This year's budget cuts are bad enough—extremely damaging in some cases. To be forced to absorb a loss of another 200 to 300 teachers next fall, with all the ripple effects and domino effects of seniority "bumping" throughout the system occurring again just a year from now, would be truly calamitous.

We must not allow this to happen. It is too unfair to our children.

The budget in fiscal 1979 (the 1978-79 school year) was \$253.3 million, to which \$6.8 million was added for cost of living pay raises. Parents and others were certainly not satisfied that the budget was adequate at that time, but, compared to what has happened since, that was a year of reasonable stability fiscally. Even then, all the area governments except Prince George's spent more per pupil than the District. But it was a year when parents in many District schools were beginning to feel a measure of positive change. Test scores were rising. Pupil-teacher ratios were improving. Confidence in the schools was on the rise.

The storm gathered in fiscal 1980, the school year that ended last June. The city council approved \$258 million, \$2 million less than the school system ultimately had in 1979. Congress, however, cut this back to \$247 million. What has not been adequately publicized is the rest of what took place. The mayor succeeded in getting \$6 million more cut by rescission during the year, and, on top of that, the system had to absorb within the existing budget \$11.9 million of added burdens for pay raises, fuel cost overruns and added food service costs. In return it received \$3 million for part of the pay raises and for special education services. What this means is that the schools ended up with \$232 million in fiscal 1980 for the same purposes for which they had \$260 million in fiscal 1979.

In fiscal 1981, the current school year, the storm has hit with full force. The board requested \$279 million, which was basically the \$260 million of two years earlier adjusted upward for inflation and downward for enrollment decreases, with a limited amount of program improvement. The council initially voted just \$252 million, and then at the mayor's recommendation effectively reduced the figure to \$244 million, which is where

Congress is expected to end up. And, as in fiscal 1980, there is more to the story. From its final appropriated sum the system will have to pay \$7 to \$10 million in early retirement costs and \$4 to \$5 million in severance pay, and will have to absorb a cost of living pay raise to the tune of about \$10 million. Thus, this year, for the purposes for which \$260 million was available two years ago, the system will have as little as \$220 million when the figures are made comparable.

Before any adjustment for inflation is made, the school system has therefore lost nearly \$70 million over the past two years. These are shocking budget cuts.

The consequences have been drastic—1046 positions cut, 700 teachers laid off, pre-kindergarten cut back to half a day, street academies merged, cuts in counselors, shop programs cut, merger of career and adult education, driver education saved only because GEICO is paying the full cost of the program, the average student:teacher ratio up from 26:1 to 28:1 with classrooms of 40 students and more not hard to find around the city. Things would have been far worse if the newly created option for early retirement had not made it possible to minimize the number of lay-offs.

The worst consequence is the massive adjustment that has to occur in a system when an upheaval of this magnitude occurs. Teachers shift from school to school. Second grade teachers end up teaching fifth grade and vice versa, and other unfamiliar assignments abound. Regular classroom teachers shift into specialized roles such as the Title I program, pushing out teachers of less seniority and community aides in whom the system has invested thousands in special training over the

last two years. Administrators whose positions are cut (\$1.6 million was cut from administration—some 82 positions altogether) "bump" back into the classroom, where their seniority entitles them to a position even though they haven't taught in years. The momentum of two years ago will be a long time in returning if it ever does.

In these circumstances, the worst single thing to contemplate is further cuts, especially in the very next year.

The school system has asked for \$265 million. The mayor's mark is \$238 million. This difference of \$27 million will mean another 200 to 300 teachers removed.

The consequences will be far more drastic than anything we have seen so far. Further increases in class size are essentially not a viable possibility. Well-documented research shows that observable drops in student performance occur when classes get very much bigger than they typically are now. The next set of cuts will have to be in the vital areas of support and supplementation which are critical to offering any individual attention to children. Indeed, it is these very areas of specialized teaching and support that are making it possible for the system to function this year despite the increases in class size.

So we may see an end to pre-kindergarten altogether, an end to all-day kindergarten, cuts in reading, math, art, music and language teachers in elementary schools, cuts in elementary school resource teachers as well, cuts in transition teachers in the junior highs and inability to implement intensive junior high school instruction, cuts in career education and adult education and significant cuts in athletic programs, including no pay for coaches, no night games in gymnasiums, no lighted fields, and changing the dates of the basketball season so as to lower the heating bill. School books and supplies will be ever more scarce, repairs to buildings will be deferred even longer with inevitable effects on the learning atmosphere, security problems will surely increase, and aides from the community will decrease in numbers yet again.

We are an urban school system serving children who have all the problems that inner-city children have. Our schools have to do more for their pupils than do suburban schools. They have more children who need help with reading and other basic skills, more children with learning disabilities that come from inadequate prenatal and other health care, and more children with behavioral problems.

It is simply a fact of life that urban schools have a greater responsibility and a greater role than other school systems.

But we are not moving to meet those responsibilities more fully. We are going the other way. And we are likely to cause damage which costs more money than what we save. Cutting out pre-kindergarten not only slows vitally important early childhood development, it will drive many mothers out of the work force and onto the welfare rolls. Cutting

More than 7000 people attended the third annual Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 7th. Proceeds netted Neighbors Inc. \$1400.

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Shepherd School is forming a soccer team that will start its season this spring. There are openings for boys and girls who were born in 1970. Attendance at Shepherd is not a prerequisite. Info: Linda Anderson, 723-5288.

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A three-day grantwriting seminar will be held Nov. 19-21 at the Van Ness campus of UDC. The sessions will run all day. A random sample of participants in previous seminars has shown that 43% of those who had not written proposals before received funding after attending a seminar. The seminars are a project of the Women's Education Equity Program. Advance registration is \$175. If paid at the door it's \$190. Info: 833-4754.



out career and adult education programs is cutting a lifeline to the labor market. It means more unemployment and more welfare. Children who don't have resource teachers to help out when they have behavioral problems will tend to get pushed out of school and thence, all too often, into the juvenile justice system and costly institutionalization.

The \$260 million level of two years ago was not lavish. It was less than the per-student level of spending of many other large cities, let alone suburban systems. Even with the enrollment decreases, simply keeping up with inflation and subtracting the drop in students would have produced a very conservative "stable state" budget for fiscal 1982 of \$280 million.

To be talking about \$238 million is almost unbelievable. It is as though a person earning

\$200 a week three years ago, with all the inflation that has occurred, were to be asked to accept, not \$200 a week, which would itself be a very real cut in wages, but \$183 a week.

The school system has borne the brunt of the budget cuts thus far. This is undeniable. But we think the \$238 figure goes beyond unfairness. It seems to us to be an attack on public education itself, an apparent dismantling of our public schools as a system of education for the children of Washington, D.C.

The \$260 million of fiscal 1979 was far from perfect. The \$280 million which would roughly equal that now is based on a very conservative inflation assumption of 8 percent, less the decreases in enrollment that have occurred. It does not even count the annualization cost of the new expenditures which the system has had to absorb.

A figure of \$280 million would not even allow for the added funds needed to support

the system's new, more rigorous student promotion policy or to effectuate the increase in the academic standards recently adopted as requirements for graduation, or for the creation of any other needed new programs. The \$280 million figure is a bare minimum.

Indeed, if we were talking about funding at the levels provided for the nation's most prestigious school systems, like Winnetka, Illinois, or Scarsdale, New York, we would be talking about a budget of \$325 million and then some.

This may be the last chance for thousands of D.C. children. Sad to say, many parents who can afford private school, sometimes at great sacrifice, are telling us they won't be around next year if this new round of cuts is adopted. Even sadder, thousands of other parents have no choice. The fiscal carnage must stop, and it must stop now.

For more information you can call Parents United at 783-8585.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On September 16, the Washington Post's Richard Cohen wrote a beautiful almost poetic tribute to Rock Creek Park, echoing the love that many of us have for this magnificent resource in our midst.

Unfortunately, in doing so, he gave prominence to a simmering conflict—that of bicyclists versus joggers—while unwittingly burying the very strategy that could resolve the problem and transform the park into a carless "almost heaven."

Sure-enough, a week later, an angry interchange of letters was published in the Post, with a jogger suggesting bikers should ride in the road and a cyclist reminding everyone that the narrow pavement is called the "Bike Path." Meanwhile, about 90 percent of the park's flat, creekside land is devoted to the most dangerous, unpleasant intruder of them all—the automobile.

The Jewish expression for this is "Let's you and him fight."

In New York, a coalition of bicyclists, joggers, skate-boarders, roller skaters, walkers, bench-sitters, stroller-pushers—in a word, *people*—realized that Central Park was big enough for *all* of them, as long as their one common nemesis, the auto, was excluded. Today, Central Park is mercifully carless (except for crosstown transverses) at all times except weekday rush hours.

Being in Central Park on a beautiful Sunday is an incredible experience. You are literally one of 500,000 or more people, with bikers, runners and skaters constantly streaming by, yet it is eerily quiet and the air smells nice, too. Since Rock Creek Park is bigger, with fewer people and more trees, the experience here could be even more profoundly enjoyable.

Of course, as some people have already discovered, a short two-mile section of Beach Drive is closed to car traffic on most Sundays, and has thereby been transformed into the most delightful part of the park. You really can hear Rock Creek burbling past! You really can stand on the beautiful stone bridge and lose yourself in reverie! However, for bicyclists and runners, two miles isn't much; the experience is over in a couple of minutes.

Happily, Washingtonians could soon have the opportunity to set aside more of Rock Creek Park for human, non-motorized activities. After nearly two years of study, the Park Service is scheduled to release an options paper detailing nine scenarios for dealing with biker/jogger/auto conflicts—including proposals for closing additional sections of Beach Drive more of the time.

Cohen says he used to think Central Park was the greatest miracle of all, but now he switched his allegiance to Rock Creek Park. The real miracle would be if we could preserve the magnificence of this natural area for *people* instead of gradually turning it over to the very vehicles we want to get away from in a park experience.

When the Park Service holds public hearings on its options, we must not miss this golden opportunity to press for a people-oriented park. Never again should walkers, runners and bikers wrangle while the cars keep roaring past.

PETER HARNIK  
Washington, DC

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Only recently have I become aware of the potential and unnecessary cost to the citizens of the District of the petition to recall Mr. Shaffer-Corona, member-at-large of the Board of Education. Nathaniel Bush, R. Calvin Lockridge and Alaire Rieffel, all members of the board, have initiated this petition. I take absolutely no position on the pros and cons of whether or not Mr. Shaffer-Corona should be recalled. However, I do wish to point out that Mr. Shaffer-Corona's term expires in November 1981, that the Board of Elections estimates that the 26,000 signatures on petitions required to trigger a recall election cannot be collected and authenticated before August 1981 and that a recall election cannot be held before September 1981, only two months before the citizens will be allowed to decide, in a regular scheduled election, whether or not they wish to re-elect Mr. Shaffer-Corona, if indeed he decides to run. A special recall election for an at-large candidate would cost a minimum of \$171,000. I therefore urge the registered voters of the District to refuse to sign the petition to recall Mr. Shaffer-Co-

rona. I also urge the Council to reassess the recall legislation and to review the deadline dates of the legislation so that a potential special recall election would not be held two months before the expiration of an elected official's term.

ANN STULTS  
DC

[Since I gather part of the complaint against Shaffer-Corona is that he spent city money on non-school business, it is interesting to find his opponents wanting to spend many times that amount punishing him. But it's not surprising. On October 15, our board, which is so righteous about Mr. Shaffer-Corona's behavior, approved the expenditure of funds for members' foreign travel to attend the 1980 North Atlantic Regional Conference of Distributive Education Clubs of America. One member's junket is another member's "furtherance of the goals of public education." -- s.s.]



JUST IN!

**SOLAR T-SHIRTS:** Support solar energy with this "Solar in the Cities" T-shirt from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. The shirts are tan with a four-color design. L,M,S. \$7.36 including postage and DC tax. Send order to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.



# Capital J-walking

ERIC GREEN

He first entered my life when I was sitting in Farragut Square, minding my own business. He looked like Joe Average, Harvey Sightseer in Bermuda Shorts with an Instamatic strapped around his neck. For at least a half hour, he had been storming through the park, muttering obscenities at the sky, flailing himself with his fists.

Like any good American, I decided to get involved.

"Excuse me, sir," I said, interrupting him in mid-fist. "Are you lost or something?"

"Thank God," he sighed. Between tragic gasps, he spitted it out. "Please, I'm looking for J Street. I can't find it."

"Sir?"

"J Street. You know, between I and K?"

"Did you try the police?"

"Are you kidding?" They said it didn't exist."

"Go on, it's got to be around here somewhere."

But the fellow was right. We marched up 17th Street, crossing K, L, M, looping back through I, H, and G. All right, it was a good joke. Now tell me, where was J? But then again, who cared?

"I do, Mister." The man pounded his forehead. "It's no use. I can't go home again."

The story sounded crazy as he carried on about promises made, promises broken. Seems he lived on a J Street back in Altoona. He had told the boys he would bring home a snapshot of Washington's counterpart.

I still didn't get it, but I followed him through the swirling, snarling masses. We marched by the White House, curved through the Jefferson Memorial, waded into the Tidal Basin. Finally, we split up, promising each other to keep searching. Later, at home, I snapped. Wait a minute—this was his problem, not mine.

But the thing wouldn't leave me alone. All night—nightmares about monsters in the shape of Capital J's smacked me upside the head.

I was up before dawn, careening through deserted downtown streets. At work, I asked everybody about J Street—but they were all out to lunch. I turned to a cabdriver—he tried to take me for a ride. Worse, the librarian threw the book at me.

Maybe I could attack the problem logically, or more logically, illogically.

By starting at A Street, skipping B and moving eight letters over, CDEFGHI?, an arithmetic progression if you will, the next letter was J. Under this 1-8 plan, the next space fell at R. But R Street lives in Washington. Scratch that idea.

However, there was always the 1-8-14 on the Richter Scale with an overhead twist. Hop-scotching to B, sliding eight over, leap-frogging 14 more, and then doing a reverse somersault, you came to X. Voila, Washington is sans X Street. And sans Y and Z too, not to mention B. Seems I had hit Deadsville.

But wait, somewhere I had heard that the city's lettered streets were abbreviations for famous Americans. Letter A represented President Chester Arthur, C John Calhoun, F Ben Franklin and vice versa. But if that was the solution, where was J for President Jefferson? And what about B? Surely you had to recognize James Buchanan, Francis Bacon, or Bugs Bunny?

To the rescue came my friend Morris. Over a J&B, he supplied details. Seems B Street had been lost with the construction of the Washington Mall. Somewhere out there, Morris explained, old B was lying under Constitution Avenue. And probably so was J.

Then came another thought, even more sordid. Maybe J Street was in a gutter at Blue Plains, under a pile of empty Budweiser beer cans.

Inevitably, the missing J Street took over my life. For a week, I stayed home from work, pouring through yellowing documents at the Library of Congress.

One morning, a terrible premonition hit me. Thank God, it was only a glancing blow. No, they couldn't get away with. That was going too far.

I rushed outside and tried to hail a cab. After an hour, I gave up and rode Metro to Farragut Square.

Yes, just as I feared. It was my effervescent sightseer, Joe Schmoe, rope-tied to a park bench, a loose camera strap dangling from his throat.

As I undid his shackles, I had to admit it. He was right about J Street all along.

"Did you find out what happened to it?" I asked as he checked his skin for damages. "Is that why your're tied up?"

"You promise not to tell, Mister?"

"Boy Scout's Honor."

"See, someone by mistake left out J when they were naming the streets. And by the time anyone noticed the difference, they were already up to T."

"But that's crazy. How could they leave out a street?"

"Don't ask me. I don't live here. All I know is, nobody's complaining. In fact, it's worked out better. Leaving out J Street speeds up rush hour."

"How so?"

"It's easy. One less street for traffic, one giant leap out of town."

"That makes sense. So that's why they tied you up. You know too much?"

"That's only half of it."

"What? There's more?"

"Plenty more. I'm not even sure I have the whole thing. Now they want to eliminate the entire alphabet—from A to W—think what that will do to rush hour."

"But they can't get away with it. That's a cover-up."

"Call it what you like. But I for one can live without J Street. And Mister, I suggest you do the same."

## DC EYE Cont'd

Jerry is once again demonstrating his taste for incrementalism, but even so it would help to get the wheel in the door.

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You've got a few more years of driving over a rickety Francis Scott Key Bridge. City hall has it slated for repair and reconstruction in 1984.

S

You've heard for years about how the Pennsylvania Avenue plan and the convention center were going to improve the tax base. Now you can watch it happen. For example, the corner of 14th & New York was up for auction last month with the price being nearly eight times what the owners bought it for less than three years ago. That means almost a \$8 million capital

gain subsidized with local and federal tax dollars. Not bad -- for somebody's tax base. Meanwhile it remains virtually impossible to get any local politician or media excited about such incredible windfall profits resulting from publicly-financed activities.

S

Every year the city puts out a report called Program Performance, which is filled with charts that are meant to measure productivity, but often amount to little more than statistical overkill. Still, the document is filled with facts you never thought you'd find out. Here are a few samples from this year's report:

- Three thousand junked and abandoned vehicles were removed in the city last year.

- The percent of food establishments scoring below 70 on health inspections rose 20% last year.

- We didn't throw out as much trash last year -- in fact 5000 tons less. The average number of tons collected per crew-day also declined --by six percent.

- On the other hand, maybe we just missed the trashcan. Street and alley refuse went up 1300 tons.

- Only 70 miles of sewers were cleaned last year. The previous year 102 miles were cleaned. Catch basin cleaning also declined 13%. It takes 59.63 manhours to inspect a mile of sewer.

- Water meters read declined 17%. Bills rendered declined 31%. During this period we used almost the same amount of water as in the previous year.

- New patients at VD clinics went up 17%.

- Crime against persons went up 8%. Crime against property went up 10%. The number of persons arrested for crimes against persons declined 39% while the number of persons arrested for crimes against property went up 29%.

- Seventy percent of all vehicles are approved on first inspection and the average waiting time for auto inspections declined one to four minutes depending on time of the day. The worst time to get your car inspected is in the early morning (28 minutes) and the best is in the afternoon around 3 pm (21 minutes).

- The average parking meter collects about \$350 a year.

- There were 7580 traffic signal malfunctions reported and it takes 49.5 person-minutes to repair a broken traffic light.

Now, any more questions?

S

David Lewis, who was a professor of history at UDC and FCC, has departed for a fellowship at Stamford with a stinging blast at the university. In a letter to the Post, Lewis charged that UDC's "inflated costs are almost wholly a function of a bloated and indescribably inefficient administration of some 700-plus vice presidents, deputy vice presidents, deans, associate and assistant deans, institute directors, liaison officers and non-telephone-answering, slow-motion support staff." Lewis asks why the university, with its adequate budget, location in the



capital and low tuition still has declining enrollment. The answer, he says, "is that even low-income residents with mediocre high school records' [quoting the Post] recognize that this university, both by design and calamity, is inadequate even to their needs, not to mention other ethnic and economic populations that might also have found UDC one of the best buys anywhere, instead of the place with the second-highest unit cost and possibly the lowest standards anywhere."

## ATTENTION! DC ORGANIZATIONS

The Gazette is reviving its guide to local citywide and neighborhood organizations. If you would like your organization listed, please send us as soon as possible the name, address, telephone number and type of work you do.

MAIL TO DC GAZETTE, 1739 Conn. NW, DC 20009

## What's Happening

**ANTI-WAR DOCUMENTARY:** A documentary on the anti-war movement, "The War at Home," will be showing at the Inner Circle this month. Check your daily newspaper for times.

**LEAF COLLECTION:** The city has started picking up leaves along city streets. As in previous years, property owners are required to dispose of leaves by putting them in containers -- preferably plastic bags -- and leaving the containers at the regular trash collection point for the second pickup of each week. The leaves will be picked up along Supercan routes on the regular collection days. Because of budget reductions, the restriction on sweeping leaves from private property onto the street will be strictly enforced this year and violators may be subject to a \$50 fine.

**ARMENIAN BAZAAR:** Nov. 12-15, St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, 4125 Fessenden NW. Featuring a wide variety of Middle-Eastern delicacies with luncheon served daily and shish kebab dinner on Friday and Saturday nights. Info: 363-1923.

### CLASSIFIED

Classified ads are five cents a word. Payment must be enclosed with ad. Deadline: 15th of month. Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

#### COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

ACORN needs organizers to work with low and moderate income families in 20 states (not DC) for political and economic justice. Direct action on neighborhood deterioration, utility rates, taxes, health care, redlining etc. Tangible results and enduring rewards -- long hours and low pay. Training provided. Contact Kaye Jaeger, ACORN, 117 Spring, Syracuse NY 13208, 315-476-0162, or come meet ACORN's representative on Monday, Nov. 10, 7 pm at 1605 Conn. Ave. NW, 3rd floor.

**DUPONT CIRCLE ZONING CASE:** The application of the International Association of Machinists comes up again before the Zoning Commission on Dec. 4 at 4 pm in room 11A of city hall. The proposed building would be on a site bounded by Dupont Circle, Conn. Ave., 19th & N Streets. The public hearing will be limited to issues relative to changes in the design of the approved facade, height and floor area ratio.

**GEORGETOWN FLOODPLAIN ACT:** The proposed moratorium on building in the Georgetown floodplain (see item in Neighborhood Report this issue) comes up for public hearing on November 18 at 2 pm in the city council chambers. Persons wishing to testify should contact LaVerne Tyler at 724-8077. Copies of the proposed moratorium legislation can be obtained from the Legislative Services Unit of the Council at 724-8050.

**PAY HEARINGS:** The council's committee of the whole will hold a public hearing on pay increases for DC government workers on November 19 at 10 am in the city council chambers. Persons wishing to testify should contact Deborah Nichols at 724-8016 or 724-8023 by Nov. 17.

**LOGAN CIRCLE:** The city has announced that the inner roadway of Logan Circle will be permanently closed to vehicular traffic.



**REVENUE ROUNDTABLE:** A public roundtable will be held on Nov. 10 to discuss revenue sources to fund the mayor's FY 1982 budget. The sessions will be held in Room 114 of the District Building starting at 10 am.

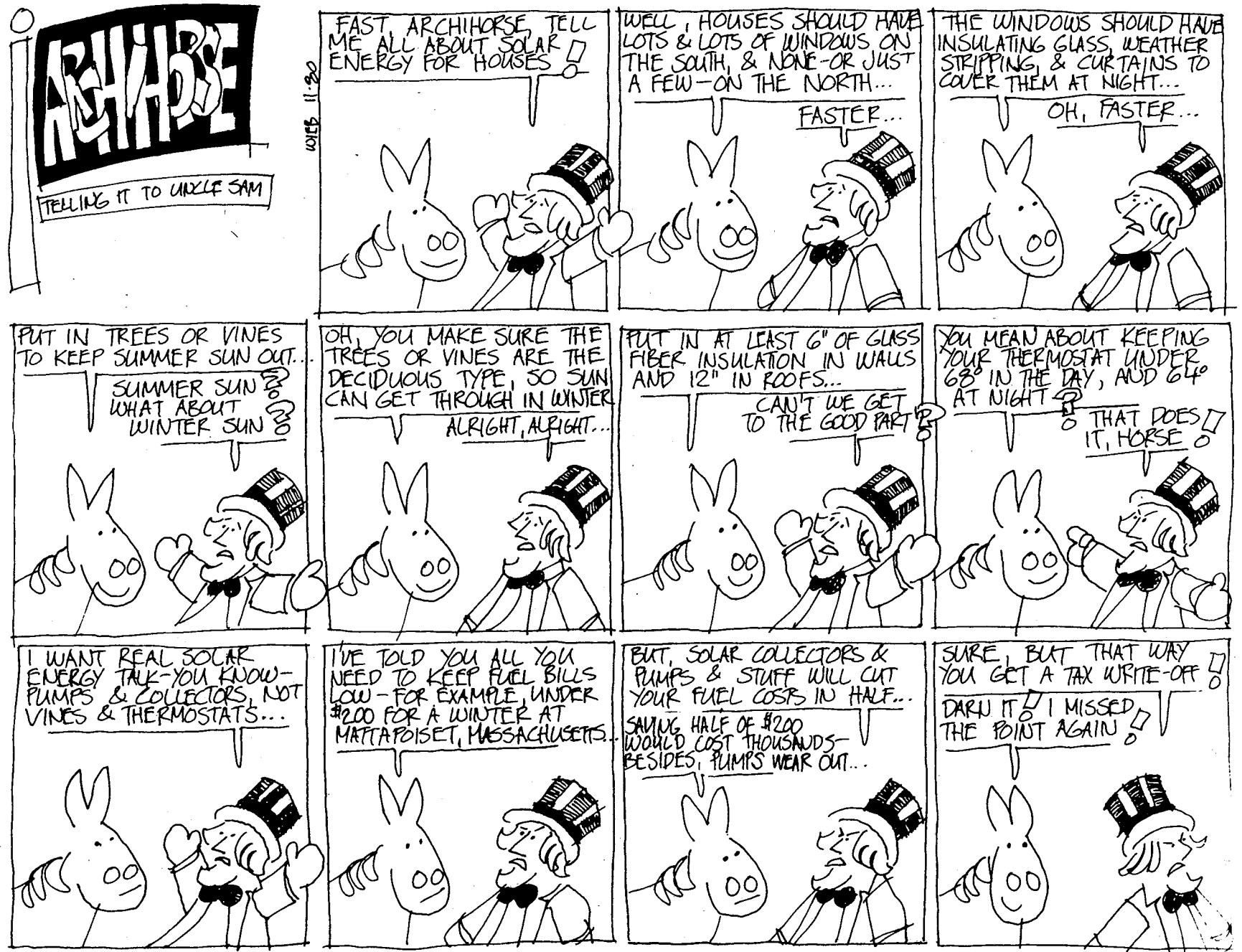
**CAPITAL GATEWAY:** There will be a public hearing on the proposed city approval of the Capital Gateway project in Near SE on November 10 starting at 3 pm in the city council chambers. This is one more case of city tax dollars going to subsidize private development and deserves far greater scrutiny than it has received to date. It is unlikely that the city council will give it such scrutiny, apparently feeling that underwriting developers is a non-discretionary cost of running the government.

**WARD THREE DEMOCRATIC PRECINCT CAUCUSES:** To be held throughout November. Officers will be elected. For information on where your precinct caucus will meet call your precinct chair or Mary Ann Keefe, 966-3612.

**NEAR SE ANC:** ANC 6B holds its regular meeting on November 10 at 730 pm at 921 Penna. Ave. SE, room 104. Info: 543-3344. A second meeting in November will be held on Nov. 25, same time, same place.

**WARD THREE FORUM:** Nov. 15, 130-430 pm, Murch School auditorium, 36th & Ellicott NW. Purpose: to hear residents' ideas on developing new roles for older adults and on issues of concern to senior citizens. Discussion leaders will include Margo Friedman, White House Office on Consumer Affairs; Valinda Jonesa, Select House Committee on Aging and Sandra Nathan, ACTION. Info: Marguerite Gilmore, 965-2144, or Ruth Haugen, 232-1468.

**HUMANITIES COUNCIL OPENING:** The DC Community Humanities Council has an opening for a program assistant to help the director in running the council's program. The position requires a comprehension of the humanities and the aims of the council's efforts. Applicants should have broad familiarity with DC and must be a resident of, or be willing to relocate in, DC. Salary is \$16,000 - \$18,000. Info: 347-1732.



## THE DC BOOKSHELF

WHO TAKES OUT THE GARBAGE IN DC? A monograph on local solid waste management by Neil Seldman, former director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. \$1.

PUBLIC BANKING: A MODEL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. A monograph on how to alter the city's banking system by William Batko of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. \$1.

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SECRET CITY: Constance Green's history of black Washington. A highly readable trip through the city's black past. \$3.50

HEALING RESOURCES: A comprehensive guide to alternative therapy, preventative medicine and holistic health practices in the metropolitan area. Originally \$5.95. Reduced to \$3.

ANSWERS: Susan Meehan's widely praised guide to community resources in DC. Where to go for help, how to deal with various problems etc. Truly useful. Send \$4.95.

STATEHOOD T-SHIRT: Light blue with dark blue lettering. Reads "End Capital Punishment. Support DC Statehood. "DC Gazette" in small letters below. State size: only small and medium left. \$4.75.

STATEHOOD BUMPER STICK: Same legend as above. \$2.50

CAPTIVE CAPITAL: Sam Smith tells the story of non-federal Washington. "Not only well worth reading, but it is the best book we are likely to read on Washington," Bryce Nelson of the LA Times. "An excellent gift," Bill Raspberry in the Washington Post. "Must Reading," Afro-American. "A joy to read," Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune. \$10.

BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS. The fascinating tale of DC's only true political boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3.

YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON: A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95.

JOHN WIEBENSON'S MAP OF WASHINGTON: Done in Wieb's wry and pointed style, this map was drawn for the Bicentennial and is now available for 40% off at \$1.50.

WASHINGTON: Constance Green's Pulitzer Prize-winning two-volume history of Washington is now available in paperback for only \$7.50. The basic book of DC history.

ZOO BOOK: Photo-filled book on what's in the National Zoo and how it's cared for. 60% off the list price. \$2.

C&O OLD PICTURE ALBUM: 40% off list price. \$2.95.